

RAMS range association of municipalities and schools

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WHEREAS: The Range Association of Municipalities and Schools represents cities, townships and school districts across the Taconite Relief area which also encompasses thousands of acres of State, Federal, private and public forest lands, and

WHEREAS: Forest products, timber harvesting and production employs hundreds of people and has a tremendous impact on the Range economy including funding for schools via State and Federal legislation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That we the duly elected board members of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools are supportive of the federal forest reform bill that recently passed the US House of Representatives, HR 2647. This bill would allow our State to more proactively manage our federal forests in a way to provide fiber for our current and future industry, improved habitat for wildlife and address the growing risk of fire, insect and disease. Additionally, our rural communities in the region rely on the economics of good forest management to produce critical revenue for our counties and schools. We urge the Senate to take up the House passed bill and return our federal forests to their intended purpose that provide so many of the needed benefits to our Region.

Approved by Board vote of -----16-----Ayes

_____0_____Nays

Signed by President Carlene Perfetto

Carlene Perfetto

Dated: August 27, 2015

Board Secretary Dave Worshek

Dave Worshek

Dated: August 27, 2015