



Empire State Forest Products Association

The people behind New York's healthy forests and quality wood products

www.esfpa.org

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Memorandum of Support A 6821/S 6320

Honorable Donna Lupardo
Member of Assembly
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Albany, NY 12248
Via Email LupardoD@nyassembly.gov

Honorable Rachel May
Senator
803 LOB
Albany, NY 12247
Via Email may@nysenate.gov

February 16, 2024

Dear Assemblymember Lupardo and Senator May:

The Empire State Forest Products Association is writing to support **A. 6821/S. 6320** which would amend the Environmental Conservation Law to allow the Commissioner to enter into contracts for the lease or use of State lands for the purpose of maple tree tapping and sap production for a term up to, but not to exceed, ten years.

The Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) represents over 350 member businesses, industries and landowners engaged in forest resource production and stewardship of New York's 19 million acres of forest. In total, \$22.8 billion dollars in annual industry production and nearly 100,000 jobs are attributable to operations of various industries within the forest related sectors. There are over 200,000 private forest landowners who also depend on sound forest and timber management and production to help them keep their forests as forests.

This legislation would authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to enter into leases for the purpose of collecting sap for maple production for a term up to 10 years. This term should be adequate for the economic viability of investment on behalf of the lessee.

ESFPA finds that markets are a major driver in forest product production and one of the major purposes of forest management and a principal purpose of the State's reforestation areas. Syrup is a wood product and one of value to maple producers and forest landowners. This extension of the lease term is consistent with the purposes of reforestation areas and in support of the overall State wood products sector.

For these reasons ESFPA supports this legislation and will work towards the passage of this legislation and its eventual signing by the Governor.

For More Information Contact:

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cc: Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Members
Senate Environmental Conservation Committee Members