



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 ELM STREET HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127



April 20, 2010

The Honorable Bryan Hurlburt  
House of Representatives  
State Capital  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

RE: Sec 23-65j(a). Forest practices

Dear Representative Hurlburt

Thank you for your letter requesting convening a task force to address Sec 23-65j(a) whereby the Commissioner of Environmental Protection may adopt forest practice regulations in accordance with provisions of Chapter 54. The Forest Practices Act (FPA) includes two significant provisions: 1) 23-65h forest practitioner certification which became effective July 1, 1992, and 2) 23-65j the option to adopt forest practice regulations. With forest practitioner certification in place for almost 18 years the Department is in good position to assess FPA effectiveness and seek stakeholder input on the necessity for additional forest practice regulations.

The formation of an ad hoc committee to review 23-65j(a) under the auspices of the Forest Practice Advisory Board (Sec 23-65g) will be addressed at the next meeting scheduled for May 26, 2010. Your suggested stakeholder membership ensures a broad perspective for such a task force. I'm sure recommendations that come forth will give the Department sound guidance in evaluating the best options to carry out goals of the FPA.

We will keep you apprised of our progress.

Yours truly,

Amey Marrella  
Commissioner

C: Chris Martin. Director Division of Forestry