**Actions the Minnesota Timber Producers Association**

**(TPA) has taken on your behalf:**

Thanks to TPA’s lobbying efforts, both during Minnesota’s Legislative Session and through discussions with policy makers at the state, federal, and county levels, a number of issues important to TPA members were acted upon in the last 12 months.

Here is a rundown of actions pertaining to the forest products industry—at the legislative and agency levels—and their outcomes this year:

**DNR Timber Sale Task Force**

Over the past year, TPA members and staff held several meetings with DNR Forestry about improving the way DNR timber sales are administered. In all, TPA made recommendations on 23 different topics, ranging from the way under-running sales are handled, to how certain elements of sale listing are handled, how harvesting operations are started and stopped, and how DNR foresters are trained. DNR has accepted the majority of these recommendations and has already begun to implement them on sales offered.

**Fire Extinguisher Program**

TPA members are able to purchase Halon “clean agent” fire extinguishers at reduced prices, thanks to a program developed by Jay Eystad of Northern Capital Insurance. Benefits of Halon extinguishers include their extreme effectiveness because they take the oxygen out of the fire. In addition, Halon extinguishers don’t leave a residue, which helps protect the machine from corrosive damage. For these reasons, Halon extinguishers are often used in computer and communications rooms throughout the electronics industry, as well as in military chips and vehicles and aircraft of all sizes. Through the Northern Capital/TPA program, large extinguishers (equivalent to 10-pounds dry) are $275 each, and small extinguishers (equivalent to five-pounds dry) are $210. To encourage their purchase and use, a credit of $100 per extinguisher per year for two years is being provided on marine/fire policies by Northern Capital’s carrier, Hanover.

**2018 Legislative Session**

In a year when few measures were enacted into law, $3 million was secured in the Bonding Bill for reforestation, fully funding the DNR’s need. In addition, funds for DNR “asset preservation,” which includes forest road, were included in the Bonding Bill.

**Future Forest Stewards at the Expo**

The North Star Expo has become the site of the “Future Forest Stewards” Program, a collaboration between TPA, the regional economic development agency APEX, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, and the Applied Learning Institute. The program involves bussing high school students from around the region to the Expo to learn about the forest products industry, including potential job opportunities. The students are also taken to an active harvest. Other program participants have included are mills, Log-A-Load for Kids, and a number of logging companies that have conducted the harvests.

**Little Alfie—20 Years Later**

An article revisiting the Little Alfie controversy in *The Timber Bulletin* received favorable response from industry stakeholders. Little Alfie was the name of a timber sale on the Superior National Forest, initially sold in 1995 to a TPA member. A group of environmentalists filed suit over the sale and blocked the road to the suit. At that time, TPA joined the US Forest Service in defending the sale in court. In early 1998, a federal judge ruled in favor of the Forest Service and allowed the harvest to proceed. Now twenty years later, a visit to the site with the original permit holder was featured in the *Bulletin,* showing the beautiful natural regeneration there. After the story was appeared, several lawmakers and agency personnel commented favorably about the outcome of the management conducted at Little Alfie.