

*The NCSAF Executive Committee in its regularly scheduled summer quarter meeting (June 6, 2013) held a discussion on the proposed state budget which unfunded the NC Museum of Forestry in Whiteville, NC. A vote was taken which resulted in the NCSAF sending the following email communication from 2013 NCSAF Division Chair Christa Rogers to each of the NC House budget subcommittee members on June 9, 2013.*

Dear Representative,

I am writing you on behalf of the North Carolina Division, Appalachian Society of American Foresters, in opposition of Senate Bill 402 regarding the funding and operation of the North Carolina Museum of Forestry. The NC Division is comprised of approximately 600 foresters and other professional members in the state. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Division voted unanimously to urge the House Committee for Natural and Economic Resources to reject Senate Bill 402 and continue to support the NC Museum of Forestry at its current level.

According to the North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension, North Carolina's forests support one of the state's largest industries, the \$19 billion forest products industry. In 2012, this industry provided over 67,000 jobs contributed \$4.5 billion to the state GDP, and provided an economic benefit of nearly \$24 billion in North Carolina. The NC Division believes The NC Museum of Forestry plays an integral role in interpreting the history of this important industry, and provides a historical foundation for the "Tar Heel" state's legacy of being a nucleus for forest products. In addition, the Museum is an NC Environmental Education center that delivers natural resource education opportunities for citizens of all ages.

The North Carolina Division, Society of American Foresters urges you to vote against this legislation and requests that you continue to support the Museum's mission of providing the state's forest history and environmental education opportunities to the NC public.

Sincerely,

Christa Furtch Rogers, Chair  
North Carolina Division, Appalachian Society of American Foresters