STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

June 10, 2015

The Honorable Daniel J. Benishek
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Benishek:

SUBJECT: Good Neighbor Authority Templates

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Forest Resources Division (FRD), has been proactively working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service to implement Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) in Michigan, as authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.

The MDNR has directly participated in public consultation with the USDA Forest Service for development of agreement templates that are necessary to implement GNA in Michigan and other states. It is our understanding that the following templates are still in the review and approval process with the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

- OMB 0596-TBD/FS-1500-36 – Good Neighbor Agreement Between the State and the USDA Forest Service
- OMB 0596-TBD/FS-1500-36a – Master Good Neighbor Agreement Template
- OMB 0596-TBD/FS-1500-36b – Good Neighbor Agreement Supplemental Project Agreement
- OMB 0596-TBD/FS-1500-37 – Good Neighbor Agreement for Road Work and Other Activities

We desire to implement GNA in Michigan in fiscal year 2016, but cannot do so until these templates are approved by OMB for use. We would greatly appreciate any assistance that your office may provide in obtaining OMB approval of the templates.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Mr. David Price, acting Section Manager, Forest Planning & Inventory, FRD, at 517-284-5891; or DNR-FRD, P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7952; or you may contact me.

Sincerely,

William O'Neill, Chief and State Forester
Forest Resources Division
517-284-5876

cc: Mr. Bill McBride, Governor's Washington Office
Mr. Keith Creagh, Director, MDNR
Dr. William E. Moritz, Natural Resources Deputy, MDNR
Mr. Trevor VanDyke, Legislative and Legal Affairs, MDNR
Mr. David Price, MDNR