



**PARTNERS IN FORESTRY LANDOWNERS COOPERATIVE**  
**6063 Baker Lake Road**  
**Conover, WI 54519**

November 8, 2013

Neal Bungard, Forest Legacy Program Specialist  
Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry  
U.S. Forest Service  
271 Mast Road  
Durham, NH 03824-4600

Dear Mr. Bungard,

Partners in Forestry Cooperative (PIF) is proud to endorse the Pilgrim River Forest application under the Forest Legacy Program. As a supporting partner and the primary forest manager of the Pilgrim River Watershed Project since September of 2009 we are excited to witness the goals of the project come to fruition. With the adjoining community forest as a neighboring property the Forest Legacy conservation easement will go a long ways to suit the needs of a growing and active community deeply in need of maintaining open space for recreation, education and solitude.

The Pilgrim Forest lands are covered by a growing and increasingly valuable timber resource, heavy to northern hardwoods including high quality sugar maple but also offering a wide diversity of other significant timber species. As non timber plant species also being important to the project goals, the Pilgrim Forest hosts the very nicest stands of Canada Yew we are aware of in the midwest.

Maintaining the management of high value timber resource, protecting other important flora and fauna on land and in riparian corridors, providing a wide variety of public recreation within a very short distance to a city and a university, maintaining a forested area used for decades for education, maintaining the pristine water of the Pilgrim and its numerous tributaries as it nears the largest of the great lakes....all these above mentioned benefits define the very need of protection for the Pilgrim Forest.

Please give every possible consideration to funding the Pilgrim Forest request for protecting this very special property under the Forest Legacy program which in turn will be a significant benefit to the public at large.

Do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Margo S. Popovich, Secretary  
Partners in Forestry Cooperative  
6063 Baker Lake Rd.  
Conover, WI 54519  
[www.partnersinforesry.com](http://www.partnersinforesry.com)