



April, 2013

**Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association  
Competitiveness of Great Lakes Forest Products  
Potential Federal Initiatives**

**1. Rail Key To Enhancing Competitiveness of Great Lakes Forest Products.**

- CN has endorsed broad-based collaborative effort:
  - CN Advisory Board – Great Lakes Region.
  - Long term development, log and intermodal freight on light density lines.
  - Increase competitiveness of Great Lakes Forest Products.
- Restore connection to domestic markets via rail and rail intermodal.
- Use CN's reach to open new export markets:
  - Asia and Pacific rim via Prince Rupert and Vancouver.
  - Europe and east via Montreal and Halifax;
  - Mexico and Latin America via New Orleans.

**2. Great Lakes Forestry Conference at Carter, WI June 24, 2013.**

- Geographically, CN/WC lines & Forest coincide with Congressional districts.
- Outcome objectives:
  - A permanent Congressional “Great Lakes Forest Caucus”;
  - Complemented by a “Great Lakes Forest Coalition”.

**3. Potential Federal Level Action Opportunities.**

- Extend shortline tax credit to all light density lines and related facilities:
  - Base credit on shippers/communities served, not rail ownership structure.
  - Help even the playing field for Class I capital investment decisions.
  - Extend shipper investment in rail related facilities and equipment.
- Weight incentive for sealed domestic containers moving rail intermodal.
  - FHWA permit as non-divisible loads as it does international containers.
  - Possibly an FHWA pilot project, subject to State consent.
  - Ameliorate discrimination against domestic manufacture.
  - Reduce disadvantage of domestic manufacturer's access to rail.
- Freight Bridge Improvement Programs (*e.g.*, WI 2013 Senate Bill 31).
  - Repair and maintain local bridges, routes to/from intermodal connections.
  - Federal matching grants or TIGER-type competition for funds.
  - Overall infrastructure dividend, shift freight to rail for line haul.
  - Will enhance competitiveness of Great Lakes Forest Products, jobs.