

Tom Tallier
Forest County Board of Supervisors
District 8
4257 Oconto Drive
Wabeno, WI 54566
Hearing Date January 31, 2024
Written Testimony

Honorable Congressman Tom Tiffany and members of the
Natural Resource Committee:

First I would like to thank everyone for the invite and the
opportunity to come to Washington, D.C. our Nation's
capital to present my Testimony on H.R. Bill #7072.

I also would like to tell you some facts about Forest
County and the Town of Wabeno, which is located in
northern Wisconsin. Forest County got its name because
of all its trees. It has been reported that Forest County
has more trees than stars in the sky. On the subject of
numbers, approximately 9,000 people call Forest County
their home. Forest County is also home of two federally
recognized tribes (Potawatomi and Sokaogon Chippewa)
and is the only county in the lower 48 states that have two
tribes within their boundaries.

A main concern in Forest County is the lack of private land. The major land owner is the United States Forest Service which controls approximately 50% of the land. When you put together all non paying taxable lands it comes to approximately 90%, which means only 10% of the land in Forest County is fully taxable.

Here lies the problem. To help solve the problem I offer the following. Tony's Ready-Mix is a sand gravel ready-mix company, a small business by some big city standards. But here in Forest County we need every business to survive. Tony's Ready-Mix has been in business for 20+ years and hires 16-18 full time employees and has a yearly outlay of capital of approximately 1 million dollars. Forest County and the Town of Wabeno need this business to keep moving forward. We need this 14 acres of land so local residents can keep working, living and sending their kids to school here in Forest County.

I would be happy to answer any questions on this matter. Attached are letters of support:

Wabeno Chamber of Commerce

Town of Wabeno

Forest County Economic Development Partnership

Thank You,

/s/Tom Tallier
TOM TALLIER

Attachments 3

FOREST COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP

TO:
RE: Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix

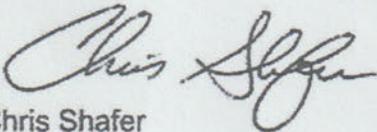
Greetings,

The Forest County Economic Development Partnership is pleased to support the request of Tony Smith, DBA Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, with the purchase or trade of U.S. Forest Service to ensure the sustainability of his business and employment opportunities in Forest County, Wisconsin. .

The need for expansion was highlighted in 2022, revealing only a few years of sustainable sand and gravel to continue production and employment for his business. He has been in contact with Forest County in discussions on land purchases or trades to sustain the demand of sand and gravel for business purposes. Currently his site will only sustain his business until late 2025 or early 2026.

With the success of land purchase or trade between Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix and the U.S. Forest Service he will be able to provide Forest County with steady employment and growth of his company. The company currently employees around 25 individuals from around the area, and works on many jobs that increase the growth of the county. Sustaining this business for Forest County and its economic development is critical to the success and growth of the County as a solid unit.

Sincerely,


Chris Shafer

Executive Director
Forest County Economic Development Partnership
Forest County Chamber of Commerce
Forest County Tourism Commission
chris.visitforestcounty@gmail.com
(715) 478-3450



September 8, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter from the Wabeno Area Chamber of Commerce is written in support of the sale or trade of land between Tony Smith, owner of Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix LLC and the U.S. Forest Service. It was brought to our attention that his purchase or trade is needed to provide the materials needed to continue production in the future.

Tony's Redi-Mix has been in our community for over 20 years and is currently providing employment for approximately 25 employees, which enables them to provide for their families. Tony and his employees are active community members and essential to the economic growth of Wabeno. We support all efforts that will help him to sustain his business.

Sincerely,

Dawn Jakubiec

Treasurer, Wabeno Area Chamber of Commerce

TOWN OF WABENO
4473 N. Branch St.
WABENO, WI 54566
Phone: 715-850-1127

Jim Smith, Chairperson
Randy Johnson, Supervisor
Benjamin Hermus, Supervisor

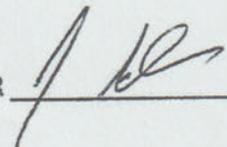
Raletta Shampo- Ashbeck, Clerk
Cheryl Ehlinger, Treasurer

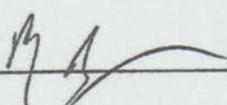
The Town of Wabeno is in support of the request to purchase or trade of the U.S. Forest Service land to Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix LLC Tony Smith owner.

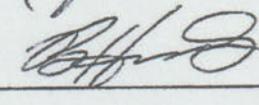
The need was brought to our attention last year, revealing only a few years of sand and gravel to continue production and the employment of approximately 25 employees and their families.

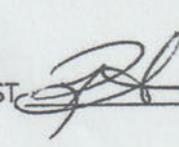
Tony has been actively searching for property and so far has not found any other options.

With this purchase or trade between Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix and the U.S. Forest Service he will be able to provide steady employment and growth for his company and our community. Tony's Redi-Mix LLC is one of the largest employers in the community and we would to support him any way we can.

CHAIR  _____

SUPERVISOR  _____

SUPERVISOR  _____

ATTEST  _____

9/5/23