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MICHIGAN FOREST PRODUCTS COUNCIL HAILS NEW GAS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT, SUPPORTS TIMELY FEDERAL REVIEW PROCESS

SCOTT ROBBINS OF MFPC APPLAUDES PROJECT TO PROVIDE THOUSANDS OF JOBS, ECONOMIC GROWTH IN MICHIGAN | | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 4, 2014

Lansing, MI— The Michigan Forest Products Council (MFPC) today applauded the announcement by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that it will start a review process for the proposed 800-mile Rover natural gas pipeline.

“This critical new infrastructure will create many new jobs across Michigan and provide local businesses and consumers with our first direct access to America’s immense Marcellus Shale gas reserves,” said Scott Robbins, MFPC Director of Public Affairs. “Natural gas production has soared throughout much of the United States. Michigan businesses and consumers now have a chance to gain greater access to affordable, reliable, domestic energy supplies.

The Rover Pipeline will transport natural gas from locations in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio to communities in Michigan and the Mid-West. It will also connect to distribution centers in Canada, serving consumers across the Great Lakes region. The project, estimated to create nearly \$1 billion in direct spending, will see 76 percent of components built in the United States, and ensure Michigan manufacturing will have ample access to energy. It will also generate new tax revenues for Michigan, as much as \$32 million in state property and sales tax revenue.

“We’re confident this project will be done right – from initial ground breaking to final property restoration,” continued Scott. “We’re eager to see this project get underway and encouraged to see the public input process ready to start.”

The FERC will hold upcoming public hearings on the Rover Pipeline in conjunction with state officials. Testimony and input given at those meetings will be taken by FERC and the pipeline parent company in finalizing plans for development. The process will ensure minimal impacts on the community and landowners.

The Michigan Forest Products Council works to promote, protect and sustain a vibrant forest products industry in Michigan. Michigan has 19.3 million acres of forest land supporting over 150,000 jobs and \$14.6 billion in annual economic activity.

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