



NHLA

STRONG ROOTS. GLOBAL REACH.

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder;

I am writing to share our thanks and appreciation of Alayne Hansen and Grayling Michigan Works staff in Grayling, Michigan. The communication and dedication that she has shown was outstanding in our collaborative efforts.

Alayne has been an essential contact for us and has been exceedingly helpful in working with us to bring NHLA Lumber Grade training to Michigan employers as part of an Industry-Led Collaborative through the Skilled Trades Training Fund.

The National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) is a not for profit association formed in 1898 with the sole purpose of creating and maintaining an extensive set of grading rules for the measurement and inspection of hardwood lumber. Since the inception of the NHLA the association has been recognized as the governing body of the hardwood industry by many of the Federal Government agencies.

In 1948, the NHLA began teaching the grading rules to students returning from WWII and since has trained over 7,500 industry employees. The "Lumber Inspector" in a hardwood operation is comparable to an accountant at any level of a business, they are establishing the value of the company's products.

The recent training in Traverse City, Michigan was made possible by the hard work of Alayne Hansen and our staff working together. With this training, there is 13 newly trained hardwood inspectors that are assisting 12 Michigan based companies in supplying and consuming hardwood lumber to manufacturer goods globally and domestically.

The NHLA Inspector Training School is head quartered in Memphis, TN and holds 2 classes each year, the summer months of the year are open to travelling to areas of high concentrations of need for trained hardwood inspectors, similar to Michigan. The school is constantly looking for locations and we look forward to revisiting an area of Michigan in the next couple of years, with the help of Grayling Michigan Works and Alayne Hansen.

Sincerely,

Dana Spessert
Chief Inspector/Dean of Education
National Hardwood Lumber Association