

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on
Agriculture and
Environmental
Resources
(SC-AER)

Sample:

- Record of Comm. Proceedings
- 97hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 97hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 97hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

- Appointments ... Appt
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- Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule
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- Hearing Records ... HR
- 97hr_ab0656
- Miscellaneous ... Misc
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- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP
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Testimony for the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environmental Resources

Chair Clausing and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide comment to you today. My name is Carol Cutshall and I am Bureau Director for the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Environment. I am here to testify in support of AB656 that expands the DOT/DNR liaison process to include all transportation projects in the state.

The DOT/DNR liaison process provides for early involvement by DNR personnel in DOT projects. This allows environmental concerns to be addressed at a time when solutions are easily implemented in a cost effective manner. This process has functioned extremely well and has served since 1976 as the basis for a cooperative partnership between two agencies with often differing perspectives.

AB 656 will allow this efficient and effective process to be used for transportation projects such as airports, railways and harbors, not just highways and bridges. It will provide for consistent review of projects with

proven streamlined procedures. AB 656 will allow staff from both agencies to enhance existing positive working relationships to construct safe and cost effective transportation facilities while minimizing adverse effects on the environment.

The cooperative liaison process allows Wisconsin to build safe highways and bridges in an efficient manner while maintaining its heritage of excellence in environmental stewardship. It should be expanded to include all transportation facilities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. I am happy to answer any questions.