

Committee Name:

**Assembly Committee – Rural Affairs and Forestry
(AC–RAF)**

Appointments

01hr_AC–RAF_Appt_pt00

Committee Hearings

01hr_AC–RAF_CH_pt00

Committee Reports

01hr_AC–RAF_CR_pt00

Clearinghouse Rules

01hr_AC–RAF_CRule_01–

Executive Sessions

01hr_AC–RAF_ES_pt00

Hearing Records

01hr_ab0790

01hr_sb0000

Misc.

01hr_AC–RAF__Misc__pt00

Record of Committee Proceedings

01hr_AC–RAF_RCP_pt00

02-13-02 PH - AB785, AB786, AB787
— AB788, AB790
Exec - AB786, AB787, AB790

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Date: Feb. 13, 2002 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 328 Northwest - State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. John Ainsworth, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Donald Friske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Stephen Freese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mary Hubler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

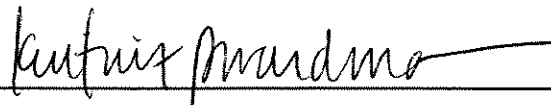
Kristina Boardman
Kristina Boardman, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Date: Feb. 13, 2002 Meeting Type: Durham Executive Session
Location: 328 Northwest - State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. John Ainsworth, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Donald Friske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Stephen Freese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mary Hubler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>



Kristina Boardman, Committee Clerk

Vote Record

Assembly - Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

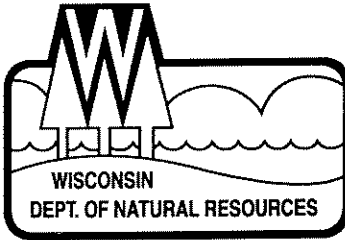
Date: _____
 Moved by: Hubler Seconded by: Schneider
 AB: 190 SB: _____ Clearinghouse Rule: _____
 AJR: _____ SJR: _____ Appointment: _____
 AR: _____ SR: _____ Other: _____

A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Sub Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

- Be recommended for:
- Passage
 - Introduction
 - Adoption
 - Rejection
 - Indefinite Postponement
 - Tabling
 - Concurrence
 - Nonconcurrence
 - Confirmation

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Rep. John Ainsworth, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Donald Friske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Stephen Freese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mary Hubler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Scott McCallum, Governor
Darrell Bazzell, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
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Assembly Bill 790

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs & Forestry

Department of Natural Resources Testimony
DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell
February 13, 2002

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss AB 790.

The Department of Natural Resources strongly supports AB 790 and requests expedited action on this bill. As you know, in order to veto the provision in the biennial budget bill (2001 Wisconsin Act 16) pertaining to the creation of a Department of Forestry, Governor McCallum had to veto the FY'03 funding for forestry. AB 790 restores the budget as it was passed by the legislature and sent on to the Governor. This bill can be implemented with SEG funding; this bill will not further strain limited GPR funding.

Without funding as of July 1, 2002, the DNR would need to cease forest fire protection activities, forest tax law implementation, state forest resource and visitor management, county forest assistance, nursery production and distribution, insect and disease control efforts, urban forestry assistance, grants and aids to local units of governments, and a myriad of other activities that provide important benefits and services to the people of Wisconsin.

The situation we are in is an aberration caused by a unique set of circumstances unrelated to the broad and bipartisan support for forestry in the legislature and by the governor.

The Department urges this Committee to support AB 790 and advocate its expedited passage without amendment by the legislature. Expedited passage of the bill will make sure that Wisconsin's Forestry Industry has the necessary resources to do its work this Spring.

I appreciate this opportunity to express the Department's support for AB 790 and would be glad to answer any questions you might have.



Wisconsin Society of American Foresters

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Society of American Foresters–Wisconsin Chapter Testimony
February 13, 2002

Dear Representative Ainsworth and Committee Members:

My name is Raymond Guries. I am a professor of forestry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am also a member of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. The Society of American Foresters represents more than 500 professional foresters helping to manage the more than 15 million acres of Wisconsin's forestlands.

Our Wisconsin chapter supports AB790 relating to funding for the Division of Forestry within the Department of Natural Resources, and related matters. We appreciate that this is a "technical fix" that restores forestry appropriations that were vetoed by the governor in the 2001-2003 budget bill when he vetoed the creation of a new Department of Forestry. Language included in AB790 restores, and in some cases changes (i.e. Section 4. Appropriation Changes), appropriations for a variety of education, reforestation, wildlife management, county forest aids and other activities. We are enthusiastic about funding for these programs, and we recognize that many appropriations changes reflect the increases in work loads and costs incurred in managing and protecting a larger, more valuable, and more heavily utilized forest resource.

We encourage the Assembly to adopt AB790 in its most recent form and provide the appropriations needed to fund the work required to provide the full range of values and services that the public has come to expect and depend on from our forest resources. We are pleased to note that AB790 appears free of appropriations for activities unrelated to forestry. We commend the Assembly Committee for Rural Affairs and Forestry for crafting a bill that provides the resources needed by the Division of Forestry to help manage both public and private forest lands.



SIERRA
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John Muir Chapter

IN SUPPORT OF AB 790,
To restore funding to the DNR-Division of Forestry
February 13, 2002
By Caryl Terrell, Chapter Director

The Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter supports AB 790, a bill to restore funding to the DNR-Division of Forestry.

As you know, the DNR-Division of Forestry funding ends as of July 1, 2002 due to gubernatorial vetoes of the 2001-2003 State Budget. Funding needs to be restored to carry out the forestry work of the Division.

The good news is that this will be a revenue neutral proposal. The revenue stream for the Division remains intact in the budget; it just is not directed to support the staff and work of the Division.

AB 790 deals only with restoring this funding. As long as that is the sole purpose of the bill, you can count on the support of the Sierra Club.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our support.



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

STATE OF WISCONSIN

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Wisconsin Rapids

William "Butch" Johnson
Vice Chairman
Hayward

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Black River Falls

Miles Benson
Wisconsin Rapids

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Thomas Schmidt
Neenah

Eugene Schmit
Tomahawk

Rep. Lorraine Seratti
Spread Eagle

Robert Skiera
Milwaukee

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry
Honorable John Ainsworth, Chairman
RM 309 N State Capitol
Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

February, 13, 2002

Dear Representative Ainsworth and Committee Members;

The Governor's Council on Forestry would like to go on record in support of AB 790 restoring funding for the DNR Forestry Division.

During authorization of the 01-03 State Budget Governor McCallum vetoed a provision in the budget that created a Department of Forestry. The veto also inadvertently eliminated all funding from the forestry account including funding for the protection and sustainable management of Wisconsin's 16 million acres of forestland during FY03. While this appears to be an opportune time to off load the numerous activities like WCC and the Kickapoo Reserve that are inappropriately funded by the forestry account, the Council requests that the legislature address those issues in a different venue.

AB 790 restores the funding for the important forestry activities in the DNR's Division of Forestry. The Council urges the legislature to expedite this legislation to avoid major destruction of our valuable forestland.

The limited snow cover this winter has set the stage for a disastrous spring and summer forest fire season. Gypsy moth egg mass surveys indicate that significant acreage of forests could be defoliated this summer and managed forest law applications are at an all time record high. These are all high priority tasks for our forestry division. In addition, funding for county forest programs, state forest management, urban forestry grants and assistance to volunteer fire departments will cease on July 1, 2002 if the forestry budget is not restored. Funding these forestry activities will have no impact on the state budget deficit since they are funded from the segregated forestry account. Our forests are too important to our economy and environment to delay action on this very important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Butch Johnson
Vice Chairman

AB 790

MEMORANDUM

To: Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry Members

From: Chairperson John Ainsworth

Date: January 31, 2002

Re: February 13th Committee Meeting

Please find attached a hearing notice for a Rural Affairs and Forestry Committee meeting on February 13th. This meeting is not being held on a regularly scheduled committee day, however I felt it would be beneficial to hear the attached bills while forestry personnel are in Madison to attend the 2002 Biennial Forestry Statewide Meeting.

Four of the LRBs noticed for the hearing have been attached for your review. Some minor changes are being made to LRB 3807 at this time. Once these changes are complete, a copy of LRB 3807 (or its relevant bill number) will be distributed. An updated copy of the hearing notice will be distributed once bill numbers are available.

If you have any additional questions regarding this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Committee Clerk Kristina Boardman at 266-3097.