

 **07hr_SC-ENR_sb0015_pt01**



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate, or Joint)

Committee on ...
Environment and Natural Resources
(SC-ENR)

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... **HR** ... **bills and resolutions** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (July/2014)

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Louis Molepske, Stevens Point — Representative, Wisconsin State Assembly
- Charles O'Brien, Shawano — Wisconsin Deerhunters Inc.
- Rick Herzfeldt, Shawano — Wolf River Conservation Alliance
- Patricia Hurekman, Randolph — herself
- Betty Schneider, Oshkosh — herself
- Carolyn Brown Treas, Milton — Wisconsin MuzzleLoaders Association
- Richard Becker, Two Rivers — Manitowoc County Fish & Game Protection League
- Bob Wilberscheid, New Holstein — Calmuet County Sportsmen's Alliance
- Dale Maas, Fox Lake — Dodge County Sportsmen's Alliance
- Nancy Bugel, Marshall — herself
- David Biegel, Marshall — Wisconsin Sharp-Tail Grouse Society
- James Gleas, Madison — Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs
- James Gleash, Madison — Southern Wisconsin Pointing Dog Club
- Patricia Gleash, Madison — herself
- Gabe Kirchner, Madison — AFT-Wisconsin
- Steve Miller, Sun Prairie — himself
- Todd Zeuske, Verona — Wisconsin Bowhunters Association
- Erika Froeming, Edgerton — Wisconsin Association of Sporting Dog Clubs
- Erika Froeming, Edgerton — Jefferson County Coon & Fox Hunters
- Erika Froeming, Edgerton — Heartland Houndsmen Federation
- Dave Gjestson, Mineral Point — Friends of Lower Wisconsin Riverway
- Jim Moore, Sturgeon Bay — himself
- Joan Baudhuin, Sturgeon Bay — herself
- Shirley Kalson, Mazomanie — Wisconsin Beagle Club
- Fred Kalson, Mazomanie — Wisconsin Beagle Club
- Jim Laubmeier, Cross Plains — Wisconsin Beagle Club
- Judy Laubmeier, Cross Plains — herself

- Ted Lind, Milwaukee — Wisconsin Council of Sportfishing Organizations
- Erin O'Brien, Madison — Wisconsin Wetlands Association
- Karen Etter Hale, Madison — Madison Audubon Society & Wisconsin Audubon Council
- Marsha Cannon, Madison — herself

Registrations Against

- Jerry Deschane, Madison — Wisconsin Builders Association

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

October 11, 2007

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (5) Senators Miller, Jauch, Wirch, Kedzie and Schultz.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Kedzie, seconded by Senator Schultz that **Senate Substitute Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (2) Senators Kedzie and Schultz.

Noes: (3) Senators Miller, Jauch and Wirch.

ADOPTION OF SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1 NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 2, Noes 3

Moved by Senator Jauch, seconded by Senator Wirch that **Senate Amendment 1** be recommended for introduction.

Ayes: (5) Senators Miller, Jauch, Wirch, Kedzie and Schultz.

Noes: (0) None.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 1 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0

Moved by Senator Jauch, seconded by Senator Wirch that **Senate Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (5) Senators Miller, Jauch, Wirch, Kedzie and Schultz.

Noes: (0) None.

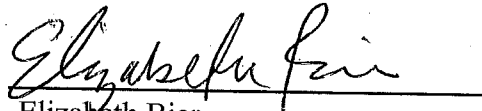
ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 1 RECOMMENDED,
Ayes 5, Noes 0

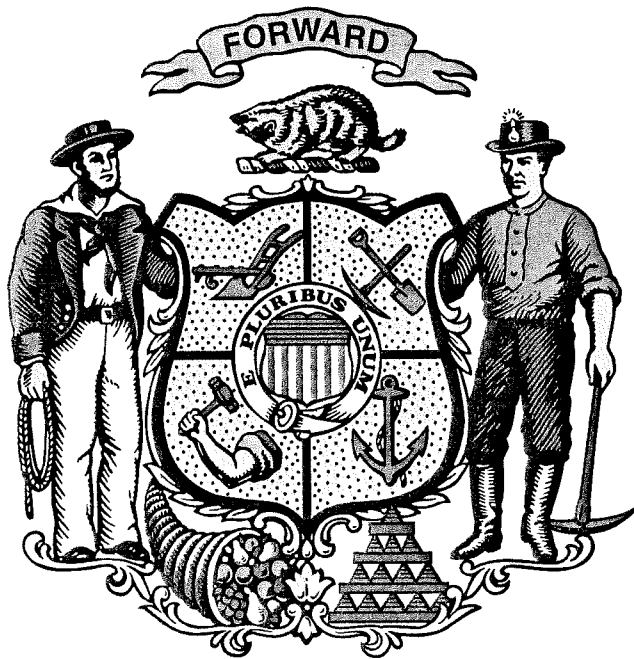
Moved by Senator Wirch, seconded by Senator Jauch that **Senate
Bill 15** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (3) Senators Miller, Jauch and Wirch.

Noes: (2) Senators Kedzie and Schultz.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 2


Elizabeth Bier
Committee Clerk



Vote Record

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Date: 10/11/07

Moved by: Jauch

Seconded by: Wirch

AB _____ SB 15 Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt B 1
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

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

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Mark Miller, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Jauch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Neal Kedzie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Dale Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed

Vote Record

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Date: 10/11/07

Moved by: Jauch

Seconded by: Wirch

AB _____ SB 15 Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 1
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

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

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Senator Mark Miller, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Jauch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Neal Kedzie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Dale Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed

Vote Record

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Date: 10/11/07

Moved by: Kedzie

Seconded by: Schultz

AB _____ SB 15 Clearinghouse Rule _____

AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____

AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt #

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt 1

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

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

Be recommended for:

- Passage
 Adoption
 Confirmation
 Concurrence
 Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction
 Rejection
 Tabling
 Nonconcurrence

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Senator Mark Miller, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Jauch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Neal Kedzie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Dale Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Date: 10/11

Moved by: Wirch

Seconded by: Jauch

AB _____

SB 15 + amendment Clearinghouse Rule _____

AJR _____

SJR _____ Appointment _____

AR _____

SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 1

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

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

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

Be recommended for:

- Passage
 Adoption
 Confirmation
 Concurrence
 Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction
 Rejection
 Tabling
 Nonconcurrence

Committee Member

Senator Mark Miller, Chair

Senator Robert Jauch

Senator Robert Wirch

Senator Neal Kedzie

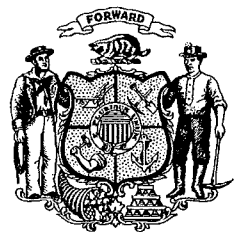
Senator Dale Schultz

<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	_____	_____

Totals:

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



May 18,2007

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

The La Crosse County Conservation Alliance, which is a organization composed of 27 conservation groups from La Crosse County, has been a strong long time supporter of returning the appointment of the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to the Natural Resources Board. We strongly support SB 15, which will reestablish the board appointed DNR Secretary.

Since 1995, when the cabinet position for the DNR Secretary was created, we have seen the professionalism and competency of the DNR deteriorate, particularly in senior administration positions. Short-term political consideration has replaced long-term commitment to sound natural resource management objectives since the DNR Secretary has been made a political appointee.

For almost 70 years, with a board appointed secretary the management of our natural resources advanced with stable long-term programs that enjoyed strong bipartisan support. Clean water, a healthy environment and abundant fish and wildlife populations provide a foundation that attracts and keeps people and business in the state. Abundant and accessible natural resources, the basis for a high quality of life for people, can best be advanced when shielded from day to day political consideration inherent to the cabinet form of government.

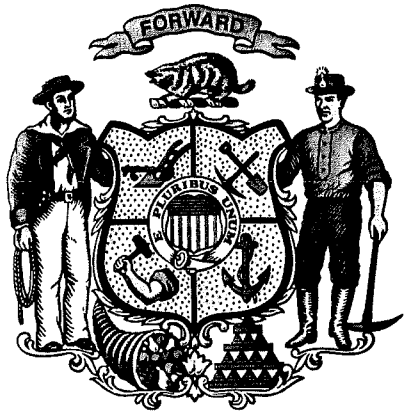
It is now time to return the appointment of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board and return professionalism and bipartisanship to the future management of Wisconsin's natural resources. The La Crosse County Conservation Alliance asks for your support for SB 15, which reestablishes the authority of the DNR Board to appoint the DNR Secretary.

Thank you for considering our opinion in this important matter

Sincerely

Harry Meinking
Chairman
La Crosse county Conservation Alliance

cc. La Crosse area state legislators
Governor Jim Doyle



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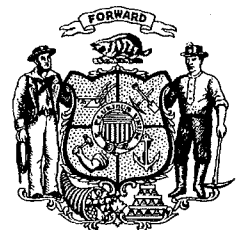
Sincerely

Harry Meinking
Chairman
La Crosse county Conservation Alliance

cc. La Crosse area state legislators
Governor Jim Doyle



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Bier, Beth

From: Kuhn, Jamie
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2007 7:50 AM
To: Bier, Beth
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 15, support
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: steven w miller [mailto:steven_w_miller@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 20, 2007 6:43 PM
To: Sen.Miller; Sen.Jauch; Sen.Wirch; Sen.Kedzie; Sen.Schultz
Cc: Rep.Black; Rep.Hebl
Subject: Senate Bill 15, support

Dear Senators: Miller, Wirch, Jauch, Kedzie and Schultz

I want you to know I strongly support Senate Bill 15, that will return the appointment of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board.

I am a 30+ year career DNR employee who has worked at all levels in the agency and I have seen the implications of having the Secretary become a Governor appointee. The Natural Resources Board has become marginalized and there is considerable confusion and tension on who is making policy for the agency, the Board or the Governor's Office. Internal agency processes also marginalize the Board since all of the appointees in the DNR see themselves as working for the Governor and not for the Board. They have to be reminded to keep the Board informed or to seek the Board's advice on policy issues. The Secretary must obviously pay attention to the Governor's Office since this is who he works for. I feel it puts the Secretary in a very difficult position many times.

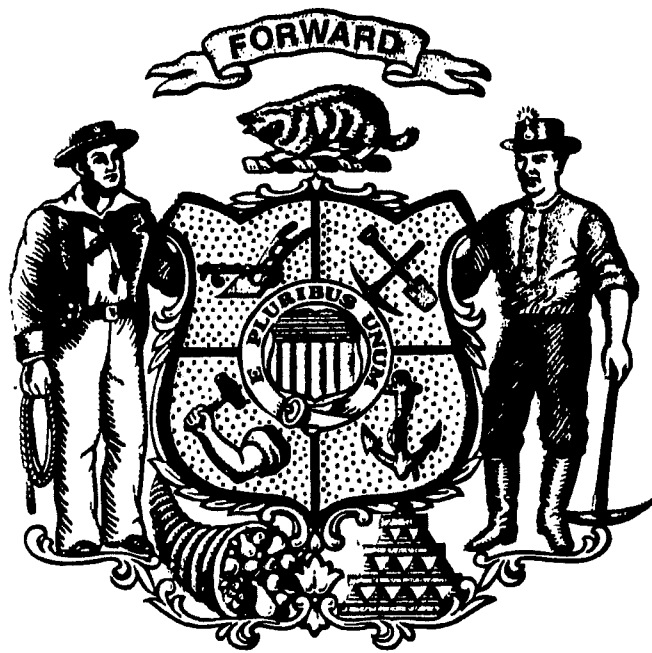
There is no need for such a difficult and cumbersome situation. The Natural Resources Board system originally advocated by Aldo Leopold greatly fostered making Wisconsin into an international conservation leader and has resulted in an unmatched conservation and environmental protection legacy for our great state. I urge you to support this bill and work for its passage. The January 2, 2011 enactment date is a tactful and generous way to implement it. I would hope however, that in the intervening years the Governor's Office, Secretary and DNR Board processes and coordination would greatly improve.

Thank you for considering my views on this very critical matter for the future of our state.

Sincerely,

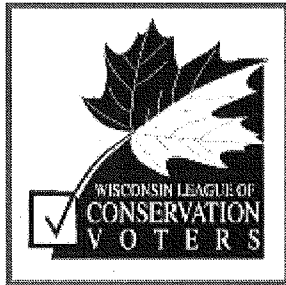
Steven W. Miller
Sun Prairie, WI

5/21/2007



Bier, Beth

From: Anne Sayers [anne@conservationvoters.org]
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2007 4:03 PM
To: 'Anne Sayers'
Subject: Conservation NOW: Week of May 21, 2007



Conservation Notices of the Week

Week of May 21, 2007
2007 -2008 Legislative Session

This Week's Notices:

- **Support SB 15: Eliminating Political Control of the DNR**
- **Support SB 119: Controlling Great Lakes Invasive Species**
- **Support AB 130: Granting Resident Hunting Licenses to Members of the Wisconsin National Guard**
- **Support AB 131: Hunting Approvals to Members of the U.S. Armed Forces**

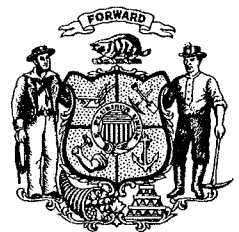
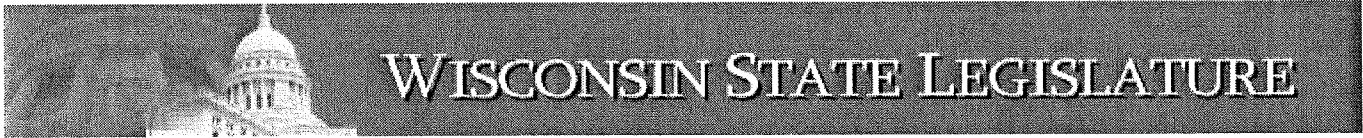
1 of 4



Support SB 15: Eliminating Political Control of the DNR

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters urges you to support SB 15, which will be before the Senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources on Wednesday.

Creating an independent Secretary to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is a component of the Hunter, Angler, Trapper Bill of Rights, which was recently selected as one of four priorities by Wisconsin's conservation community for this legislative session. Passage of SB 15 would restore integrity to natural resource management by allowing the Natural Resources Board to select the DNR Secretary as opposed to the current process where the Secretary is a political appointment of the Governor.



Cambrians for Thoughtful Development

307 Mary Street P.O. Box 385
Cambria, WI 53923

T 920-348-6118

ThoughtfulCambrians@mac.com
<http://homepage.mac.com/oscura/ctd/ctd.html>

May 21, 2007

Senator Mark Miller
Room 106 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

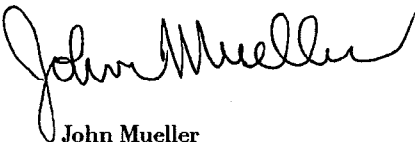
Dear Senator Miller and Honorable Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cambrians for Thoughtful Development, UA, an unincorporated non-profit association registered with the State of Wisconsin. We wish to register in support of Senate Bill 15.

Important matters such as enforcement policy, the determination of enforcement priorities, and decisions regarding referrals to the Department of Justice must be as far removed from partisan political consideration as is practically possible. The Secretary of the DNR has far reaching authority in these matters and restoring the power to appoint the Secretary to the Natural Resources Board goes a long way toward removing the Office of the Secretary from strictly partisan political influences. We believe this is the best assurance we have that matters of enforcement will be carried out in a fair and even-handed manner.

We therefore ask that the Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources to endorse and approve Senate Bill 15.

Sincerely,



John Mueller

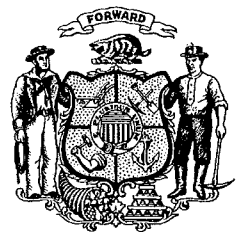
Cambrians for Thoughtful Development, UA

P.O. Box 385

Cambria, WI 53923

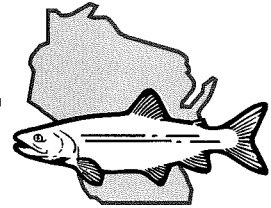


WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Wisconsin Federation

of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs



May 21, 2007

Charles C. Weier, President

358 22nd Street

Two Rivers, WI 54241 - 3802

Phone 920/793-2332

TBITR@aol.com

Senate Committee of Environment and Natural Resources
Chairman, Senator Mark Miller and Committee Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 15, Appointment of Secretary of Natural Resources

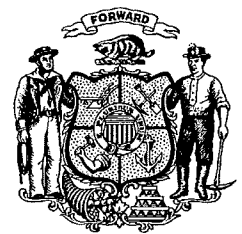
This Federation, representing 13 Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs and totaling some 3,500 members, has taken the position of full support for Senate Bill 15, relating to the appointment procedure of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary by the Natural Resources Board. We believe that the appointment of the Secretary position by the Resources Board will circumvent much of the political pressures, favoritism, and other temptations that are possible under the present procedure of the position being appointed by the Governor.

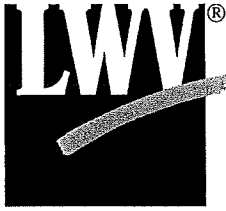
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles C. Weier".

Charles C. Weier
Pres. WF/GLSFC

copy: Thom Gulash, Sec.





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF WISCONSIN, INC.**

122 State Street, #405
Madison, WI 53703-2500

Phone: (608) 256-0827
Fax: (608) 256-1761

<http://www.lwwwi.org>
lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org

May 23, 2007

To: Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

From: Andrea Kaminski, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

Re: Support SB 15, Independent DNR Secretary

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 15, restoring the Independent Secretary for the Department of Natural Resources.

Since its founding the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin has looked at many aspects of state government and has adopted a variety of positions aimed at promoting an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, responsive and capable of making decisions. The League carefully reviewed and endorsed the Kellett Commission comprehensive reorganization of state agencies in 1967.

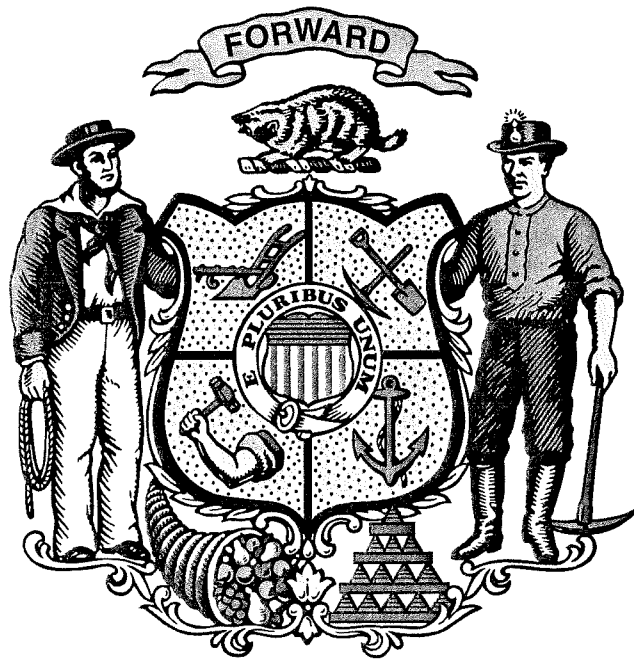
This was the origin of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR was a combination of several existing departments and continued the principle of citizen leadership proposed in the 1920s by Aldo Leopold for the Conservation Department. The seven-citizen Natural Resources Board has served us well over the years. The Board insulates policy development and implementation from the political swings of elected officials. The Board promotes public understanding and participation in decision making and offsets pressure from outside groups with special financial interests in access to Wisconsin's land, air and water resources.

One of the most significant powers of the citizen board was the hiring and firing of the agency secretary. The Board selected only a few secretaries over a period of almost 30 years. Long tenure promoted consistency in resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning. Nationally the Wisconsin DNR secretaries were recognized as professionals in natural resource management.

However in the 1995 budget, the Governor proposed several changes adopted as part of the State Budget that year. The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was made a cabinet appointment, and the Natural Resources Board was made advisory. The League believes that these changes weakened the citizen's ability to have input into department decisions.

The League of Women Voters urges you to support SB 15. This would end current law under which the Secretary of Natural Resources is nominated by the Governor and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Under this bill, the Natural Resources Board appoints the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The bill would take effect upon the inauguration of the Governor in January 2011.

We urge you to vote for SB 15 and recommend it to the full Senate for adoption. Thank you for considering the League's testimony in your deliberations.



May 23, 2007

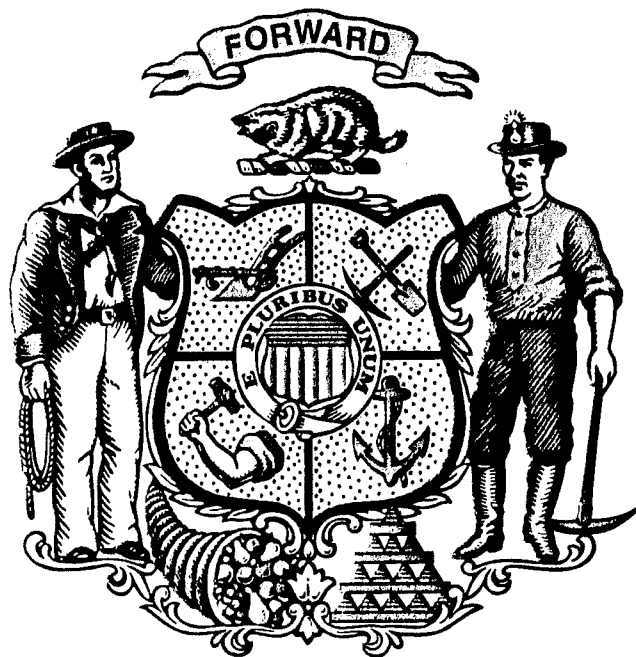
Chairman Miller, and committee members, Good morning. I am Jayne Meyer, and I chair the Legislative Committee of the Conservation Congress. I cannot tell how pleased I am to be able to testify at this hearing today.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress strongly supports Senate Bill 15 restoring the Natural Resources Board appointment of the DNR Secretary. When the chairman Ed Harvey asked me to represent the Congress today he said the mandate from the members was crystal clear and unequivocal, the current situation must be reversed.

No sooner was the ink dry on the bill giving the appointment authority to the governor than ^{the} congress, and many other groups you see here today, began to the work to restore the DNR Secretary to a board appointment. We believe the DNR must be run by science, by professional biologists, foresters, and wildlife managers, without regard to political influence.

Over the years the congress members and citizens have called loudly for this change, passing resolutions at the spring conservation hearing throughout the state. The latest resolution which included this change in the Hunter Angler trapper bill of rights, passed on a vote of 3,974 to 689 statewide.

included a call for confirmation w/ c mo
We thank the authors of this bill and this committee for your work in restoring the independence of the DNR, and ask that you refer this bill onto the full senate with all due speed.





John Muir Chapter

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter
222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 1, Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3201
Telephone: (608) 256-0565 Fax: (608) 256-4562
E-mail: john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org Website: wisconsin.sierraclub.org

Support SB-15, Appointment of DNR Secretary by Natural Resources Board Before the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee Testimony by the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter May 23, 2007

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 15, the appointment of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary by the 7-citizen Natural Resources Board (NRB). Carla Klein, Chapter Director for the Sierra Club John Muir Chapter, is out of town on business today. I am Caryl Terrell, a Sierra Club volunteer.

An independent DNR Secretary has long been a priority for the conservation community. Since its first creation in 1928 on the recommendation of Aldo Leopold and other leading conservationists, a citizen board has hired and fired the Secretary and overseen the development and implementation of policies to conserve and manage Wisconsin's wildlife, fisheries and other natural resources. This institution was carried forward when the DNR was created in 1967.

The 7-citizen Natural Resources Board reduces the role of politics in conservation and resource management matters by insulating the Secretary, professional managers and scientists from political pressure. Wisconsin has prided itself as a national leader in resource management largely because of the dominant role of these professionals.

In 1995 the Governor included in the state budget which was then adopted by the Legislature a significant change. The DNR became a cabinet agency with the Secretary selected by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. A united front of sporting, conservation and environmental groups vigorously fought this unfortunate change. We have continued to seek return of an independent DNR Secretary.

Not that natural resources policy had smooth sailing in the 1980's and 1990's, but the result of the change in 1995 has been to make DNR budgets and policies even more of a political football. Legislators and the Governor have not hesitated to try to dictate policy changes and micro-manage programs. Several strong DNR leaders have managed to weather these storms but the cost has been lowered staff morale and an inability to advance needed initiatives to protect our resources. The credibility of DNR decision making is called into question even in situations when agency decisions have not been politically influenced.

If you want to preserve and protect Wisconsin wildlife, land, water and air resources, restore the appointment of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board.

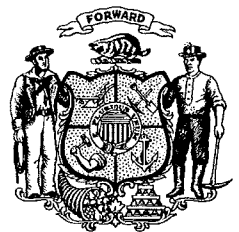
We urge you to vote for SB 15 and to recommend adoption to the full Senate. Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of SB 15, an independent DNR Secretary.

Remember to Support the Sierra Club through your workplace giving campaign!
The John Muir Chapter is proud to be a member of





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.

is a nonprofit group of citizens, organizations, and businesses working for clean, safe, healthy lakes for everyone.

One Point Place, Suite 101 • Madison, WI 53719-2809
608-662-0923 • 800-542-5253 (in WI) • FAX 608-833-7179
wal@wisconsinlakes.org • www.wisconsinlakes.org

May 23, 2007

Chairman Miller and members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Peter Murray and I am the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. The Association is the largest non-profit organization in Wisconsin dedicated to the protection and preservation of the more than 15,000 inland lakes in the State of Wisconsin. There are 350 organizations representing more than 100,000 families that are members of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

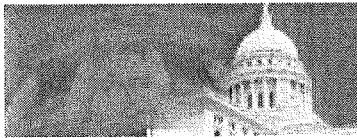
The Wisconsin Association of Lakes supports just, equitable, science-based, and democratic public natural resource management policies. We support government decision-making that is transparent and accessible to the public. We support public natural resource policies that are based on sound science, verifiable data, and adequate expert and public review. We support public natural resource policies that are technically feasible, administratively efficient, fiscally sound, and reliably enforced by adequate sanctions and/or incentives. We support public natural resource policies that provide a fair and reasonable balance between private property rights and protection of natural resources.

We believe the partisan nature of the DNR Secretary position has led to diminishing authority of citizen-based and thus science-based natural resource management. And we believe that reinstatement of the Natural Resource Board appointment of the DNR Secretary is widely supported.

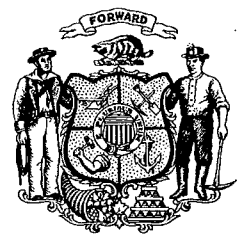
The Governor and Legislature will still have sufficient oversight of the NRB and DNR once the independent DNR secretary is restored. This oversight includes recommending and confirming members of the NRB, proposing and approving the agency budget, review authority over all rules adopted by the NRB to enact conservation policies, and enacting laws establishing conservation policies. In addition, the Governor and the Legislature have the ability to influence agency policy through public comments on proposed decisions and policies. With these controls in place, natural resource decision makers will remain accountable to the citizens of the state.

Chairman Miller and Committee Members, on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you in strong support of Senate Bill 15.

Peter T. Murray
Executive Director
Wisconsin Association of Lakes



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

May 23, 2007

Good morning, Chairman Miller and members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is George Meyer and I am the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The Federation is the largest conservation group in the state made up of 155 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry-related organizations that have over 100,000 members in the State of Wisconsin.

We would like to thank Senator Wirth and the other sponsors of Senate Bill 15 that would restore to the Natural Resources Board the appointment authority of the DNR Secretary. We would also like to thank Chairman Miller for scheduling this public hearing on the bill.

While our 155 groups are not always in total agreement on every conservation issue, on this issue there is 100% agreement among them that the DNR Secretary should be removed from the role of being a direct partisan political employee of the Governor. This is also the overwhelming position of sportsmen and women throughout the state. You will hear today about the repeated strong supportive votes for this concept in the Conservation Congress. In a 2004 poll undertaken by both the National Wildlife Federation and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, seventy-nine percent of Wisconsin hunters and anglers strongly supported restoring the DNR Secretary appointment authority to the Natural Resources Board.

Sportsmen and women in this state strongly believe that the natural resources of this state should be professionally and scientifically managed and are greatly concerned about natural resources management becoming part of partisan politics. It was because of that that in 1928 stalwart conservation leaders such as Aldo Leopold, Haskell Noyes and William Aberg along with the Izaak Walton League pressured then Governor Zimmerman to carry out his campaign promise to create a new Conservation Commission with the authority to appoint a professional Conservation Director with the responsibility to hire qualified professional natural resource managers to manage the resources of this state. The belief in this system has been thoroughly engrained in the culture and values of Wisconsin's hunters, anglers and trappers.

The fears and concerns of sportsmen and women about direct politics becoming involved in natural resource management are still valid today. While we still have a Natural Resources Board that has authority to set policy for the DNR, under the current system the DNR Secretary is appointed to the Governor and when push comes to shove must carry out the wishes of the Governor and not the Board. Secondly, it is very common in today's Department of Natural Resources to hear the words: "Well, we will have to run that by the Governor's Office" on virtually every mid-level or major policy decision that the agency has to make. I can tell you that those words strike fear into the hearts of your constituents that hunt, fish and trap. Many decisions of the DNR lose credibility because

there is a suspicion that they are made for political reasons and not based on sound professional natural resource principles. Lastly, it makes running of the DNR, one of the most important state agencies, far more difficult. By the nature of its responsibilities and the great interest of Wisconsin in natural resources, the decisions of DNR are by their nature controversial. By definition DNR and its decisions will always be controversial and those decisions will be publicly challenged. However now that the agency's leaders are politically partisan appointees, the agency's decisions become readily attackable by the opposing political party, whichever one it is, in order to get political advantage on the Governor. That makes the agency far more difficult to run, has major negative morale impact on the professional civil service employees in the agency and undermines public confidence in the agency. I do have personal and deep understanding of this because of my tenure as both a Natural Resources Board appointed Secretary and a twice-appointed Cabinet Secretary. Also I am a close observer of the agency on a day-to-day basis as Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

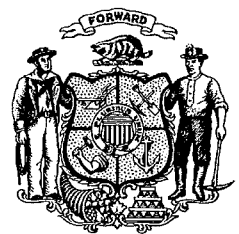
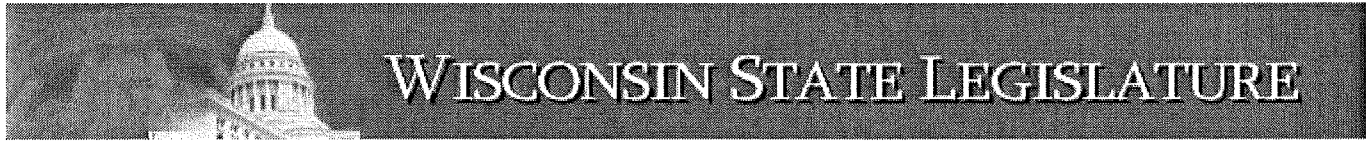
The major argument used against restoring the Secretary appointment authority to the Natural Resources Board is that the Governor and Legislature need control and accountability for the broad running of state government. I can tell you that under a Board appointed Secretary, the agency is still accountable to the general direction of the Governor and the Legislature. This occurs in many ways. The first is the Governor's appointment of the Natural Resource Board members. In this way the Governor can set the general tone and philosophy of the agency. Natural Resource Board members are confirmed by you as State Senators.

In addition, every significant policy of the agency must be adopted as rules by the Natural Resources Board. Every rule is carefully scrutinized by the Legislature that has full authority to suspend and override the rule. The Governor has strong control over the operations of the agency through the day-to-day decisions of his or her Department of Administration. Lastly, the Governor proposes the agency's budget which is the prime method of affecting an agency's operation.

What the Board appointment authority provides however is greater public involvement in agency policy setting and a buffer for the agency to make difficult and controversial natural resources decisions without partisan political interference.

Chairman Miller and Committee members, on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in strong support of Senate Bill 15.

Submitted by George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation



May 23, 2007

Mr. Chairman, members of the Environment and Natural Resources committee and committee staff. I am John Irwin, a past President of the Wisconsin Trappers Association (WTA). I am here today representing the Wisconsin Trappers Association, a professional organization representing the interests of the trapping community in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Trappers Association supports approximately 3500 members, is involved in the many aspects of the fur industry, and shares professional relationships with other outdoor organizations from Wisconsin and throughout North America. We want to thank you for allowing us to participate in a public hearing and taking the time to hear from the trapping community.

The WTA and its members are strong supporters of science-based professional natural resources management. This type of management is vitally important for furbearer populations, which are critically important to trappers. For trapping to survive in this state, sound professional management of Wisconsin's natural resources is of the utmost importance.

The Wisconsin Conservation Commission, which became the Natural Resources Board, was originally given the authority to appoint the DNR Secretary to keep the senior management of DNR out of partisan political positions which might endanger professional management of our natural resources.

A question has been posed at the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings and Conservation Congress County Meeting regarding shifting the responsibility for appointment of the DNR Secretary back to the Natural Resources Board. On several different occasions, this question has been supported by a major majority of the meeting attendees.

Finally, Governor Doyle has told the Conservation Congress on several occasions that he would support this change and would sign a bill that moves authority for the appointment of the DNR Secretary back to the Natural Resources Board.

With these facts in mind, the Wisconsin Trappers Association and its members overwhelmingly support Senate Bill 15, to restore the DNR Secretary appointment authority to the Natural Resources Board.

If we can be of any help in the future, please do not hesitate to call upon us. As I stated earlier, we sincerely appreciate this opportunity to talk with you today concerning Senate Bill 15.

Thank you.

John Irwin

Past President of Wisconsin Trappers Association