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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2009-10

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Natural Resources
(AC-NR)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
(**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) (Sept/2010)

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Natural Resources

Assembly Bill 495

Relating to: membership of the Natural Resources Board.

By Representatives Danou, Zigmunt, Black, Vukmir, Molepske Jr., Radcliffe, Strachota, Vruwink, Sinicki, Mason and Van Roy.

October 15, 2009 Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

October 21, 2009 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (14) Representatives Black, Danou, Molepske Jr.,
Steinbrink, Hebl, Mason, Milroy, Clark, J. Ott,
Gunderson, Huebsch, LeMahieu, Mursau and Nerison.
Absent: (1) Representative Hraychuck.

Appearances For

- Rep. Chris Danou, Trempealeau — 91st Assembly District
- George Meyer, Madison — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Ed Harvey, Waldo — Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- None.

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

January 13, 2010

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (13) Representatives Black, Steinbrink, Hraychuck, Hebl,
Mason, Milroy, Clark, J. Ott, Gunderson, Huebsch,
LeMahieu, Mursau and Nerison.

Absent: (2) Representatives Danou and Molepske Jr..

Moved by Representative Black, seconded by Representative Hraychuck
that **Assembly Bill 495** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (11) Representatives Black, Steinbrink, Hraychuck, Hebl,
Mason, J. Ott, Gunderson, Huebsch, LeMahieu,
Mursau and Nerison.

Noes: (2) Representatives Milroy and Clark.

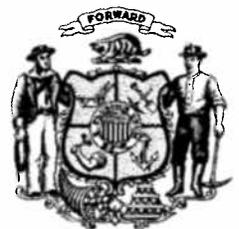
Absent: (2) Representatives Danou and Molepske Jr..

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 11, Noes 2

John Maycroft
Committee Clerk

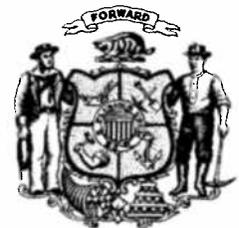


WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



10-21-2009

AB 495

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Chairman Black, Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the 168 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry related organizations that make up the Federation. The Federation strongly supports Assembly Bill 84. Assembly Bill 470 and Assembly Bill 495 and would like to thank Representatives LeMahieu, Vruwink and Danou for their lead cosponsorship of these bills.

These bills are critically important in the long term to assure that the seven men and women who are appointed as members of the Natural Resources Board have a sound grounding in the pursuits of hunting, fishing and trapping as recreational activities and that the voice of agriculture has a direct voice on the establishment of natural resources policies in the state.

AB 84 and AB 495 require that three of the seven Board members have held hunting, fishing or trapping licenses, seven out of the ten years previous to their appointment. Our review of the history of the Natural Resources Board and its major predecessor the Wisconsin Conservation Commission indicates that this standard has been met from 1928 through today. Currently, at least four of the NRB members meet this standard.

If this is the case, why is this bill necessary? During my personal experience as a member of the leadership staff of the DNR, I worked closely with the agencies in other states that had natural resource management experience. In several of those states, as the populations became more urbanized and vast numbers of their populations lost the traditions of hunting, fishing and trapping, the boards or commissions that oversaw the natural resource policies of their states at times had memberships without people that had day-to-day knowledge of the importance of hunting, fishing and trapping as critically important components of natural resource management. And in one state that I observed, the state's Wildlife Commission actually had a decidedly anti-hunting philosophy. The professional natural resource managers in that state had their hands tied in implementing sound natural resource management policies. These bills are an insurance policy to prevent that future in Wisconsin, similar to the importance of the Constitutional Amendment to Hunt, Fish and Trap.

Having a Board well-grounded in the importance of hunting, fishing and trapping is also critically important as a counterbalance in the situations where the senior members of the agency staff, such as now, do not have experience in hunting, fishing or trapping. As we have testified previously before this committee, of the nine political appointees at the top of DNR today, only one meets the standard set forth in this bill and that individual does not have responsibilities for any of the agencies conservation programs. We and other conservation groups have had to go to the Natural Resources Board often in recent years to ask the Board to intercede on Department policies that we believe were giving short shrift to hunting, fishing and trapping.

Why is it important to have someone with an agricultural background on the Board?

First, it has been the actual practice of Governors of both parties to appoint a NRB member with agricultural experience since the early 1970s. My personal observations in various roles in the agency and since are that this presence is critically important in setting natural resource policies in Wisconsin. Whether it be deer management, water pollution, forestry or land acquisition, agriculture is heavily entwined and plays a more critical role in natural resource policies than any other economic sector. My personal experience as DNR Secretary was that it was vital to have an experienced voice of agriculture at the table when key natural resource management policies were being established. I believe that other former secretaries and board members would concur with this observation.

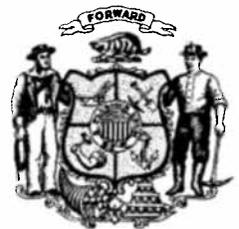
In conclusion, the Wildlife Federation strongly encourages you to advance these bills in the very near future.

**Submitted by:
George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**

October 21, 2009



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CHRIS DANOU

91ST DISTRICT

Date?

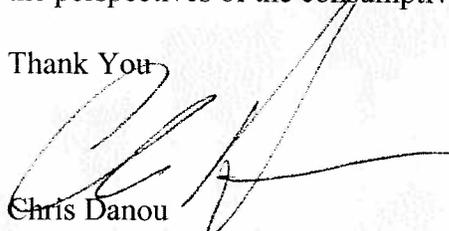
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE regarding
ASSEMBLY BILL 495

Mr. Chair, members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Thank you for allowing me to speak with you here today regarding AB 495.

The goals of this bill are relatively simple and straightforward. This bill requires that starting in 2014; at least three members of the Natural Resources Board have held hunting, fishing or trapping license in at least seven of the ten years before the nomination. In addition, the bill specifies that at least one of those members must hold are have held a trapping license. It is especially important that the perspective of the trapping community be represented on the Natural resources Board.

This bill essentially codifies existing practices, but will make sure that the Natural Resources Board is truly representative, as well as knowledgeable and concerned about the perspectives of the consumptive users of Wisconsin's natural resources.

Thank You


Chris Danou
Representative to the Assembly
91st District

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