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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**

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 ... 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) (Sept/2010)



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

March 4, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Representative Scott Gunderson (608) 266-3363
Representative Jim Ott (608) 266-0486

Misc

Democratic Control Means No Legislative Input

Rep. Black believes a "new day" at the Capitol means you don't have to do your job!

MADISON... Truly, a "new day" has dawned at the Capitol, when for the first time in over a decade, a hearing request on administrative rules was denied. Representative Jim Ott (R-Mequon) has, on two separate occasions, requested a public hearing on two administrative rules currently before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Representative Spencer Black (D-Madison), Chairman of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, has twice denied the request to have Legislative input on the two Administrative Rules.

"After being in the minority for fourteen years, perhaps Representative Black isn't used to doing the work of a Committee Chairman," said Ott. "I made a request to hold a public hearing because of legitimate concerns I have with these rules; it is insulting to the people of Wisconsin that Representative Black has chosen to play games with the rule making process."

Administrative rules are the nuts and bolts of state government. When the Legislature passes a law, the details of that law are left up to the agency responsible for enacting it. While developing a rule, the agency goes through a process, including a final review by the State Legislature before the rule is enacted.

"When I was named Chairman of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, I carried on the long-standing policy of former Chairman DuWayne Johnsrud to hold a hearing on every administrative rule, and not once has Representative Black ever complained, questioned or commented on that policy," stated Representative Scott Gunderson (R-Waterford). "It is very troublesome that Representative Black has not only abandoned a policy that was successful for fourteen years, but now he is even denying requests to hold public hearings on administrative rules."

In his letter to Ott, Black sites concerns about costs to taxpayers because of staff time and copying as his reason for denying the request.

"I am shocked that Representative Black is denying the democratic process out of concerns about additional staff and photocopying costs," said Ott. "This is not something new we are asking staff to do; it is already part of their jobs."

(more)

Gunderson continued, "It's nice Representative Black is finally trying to be fiscally conservative, but there is no additional staff cost because the legislative and agency staff are going to be paid regardless of whether or not Representative Black allows the Committee to do its work."

Legislative oversight of administrative rules is extremely important because it allows the people who wrote the original law to communicate directly with people implementing it. It is a check and balance to ensure that what one branch of government, the Legislature, intended is what is being enacted by another branch of government, the administration.

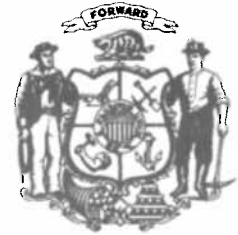
"The people of Wisconsin elect their representatives to do a job, not play petty games," stated Ott. "There are going to be plenty of things we disagree on but holding a hearing shouldn't one of them."

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State Representative Spencer Black

Misc



State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
rep.black@legis.wi.gov
(608) 266-7521

Monday, April 20, 2009

Representative Jeff Mursau
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Rep. Mursau:

Thank you for your letter.

I will consider scheduling hearings on administrative rules on a case by case basis. Please let me know the specific portions of the rules which you believe need further hearings and a detailed explanation for that belief. I will thoughtfully consider such requests.

Thank you for your assistance in this.

Sincerely,

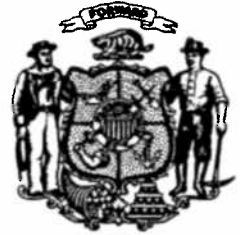
Spencer Black
State Representative





State Representative Spencer Black

Misc



State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
(608) 266-7521

May 8, 2009

Representative Scott Gunderson
7 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Rep. Gunderson:

Thank you for your letter.

I will consider scheduling hearings on administrative rules on a case by case basis. Please let me know the specific portions of the rules which you believe need further hearings and a detailed explanation for that belief. I will thoughtfully consider such requests.

Thank you for your assistance in this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer Black", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Spencer Black
State Representative