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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2009-10

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Transportation, Tourism,
Forestry, and Natural Resources (SC-TTFNR)

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) (**afr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sfr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources

Senate Bill 690

Relating to: establishment of a Wisconsin conservation corps program, authorizing a transfer of moneys appropriated to one or more state agencies, extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

By Senators Miller, Holperin, Risser, Hansen, Robson, Taylor, Lassa, Lehman and Carpenter; cosponsored by Representatives Clark, Mason, Molepske Jr., Black, Pocan, Shilling, Hubler, Vruwink, Danou, Zigmunt, Hraychuck, Seidel, Roys, Dexter, Hixson, Hilgenberg, Richards, Smith, Young, Hebl, Pope-Roberts, Kessler, Milroy, Pasch, Berceau, Ziegelbauer and Turner.

April 16, 2010 Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

April 20, 2010 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Fred Clark — 42nd Assembly District
- Don Hammes, Middleton — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- George Meyer, Madison — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Conor Smith — WI Tech College System
- Mark Miller — 16th Senate District

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

April 20, 2010

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Sullivan, seconded by Senator Plale that **Senate Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Noes: (0) None.

ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 1 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Moved by Senator Holperin, seconded by Senator Hansen that **Senate Bill 690** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (5) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen and Kedzie.

Noes: (2) Senators Leibham and Grothman.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 2

Elizabeth Novak
Committee Clerk





FRED CLARK

Serving Adams, Columbia, Marquette & Sauk Counties

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 42ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony for SB 690

The Wisconsin Conservation Corps Bill

Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources

April 14th, 2010

The Wisconsin Conservation Corps operated in Wisconsin from 1983 until 2003 and at its height employed over 300 youth and young adults doing outdoor work in 60 crews across the state. This popular program helped produce a generation of young leaders, taught new skills to at-risk youth, and resulted in hundreds of projects that improved parks and conservation lands throughout the state. As someone who has worked side-by-side with WCC crews, this program's reemergence is significant, and timely for confronting the challenges we face today.

Senate Bill 690 reestablishes the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC), to build on our tradition of stewardship of our state's natural resources, and to provide our state's young people with work and educational opportunities. The WCC seeks to protect, enhance, and provide access to Wisconsin's natural heritage and encourage and enable young people to learn the value of work in a natural setting by providing employment training and career pathways.

During these difficult economic times, reestablishing the Wisconsin Conservation Corps is more important than ever. WCC will serve 18-25 year olds, and half of WCC crews must have no postsecondary education, and who have a family income of less than 200 percent of the federal poverty line. Simply put, we want to take youth who are at risk and without work, and provide them the discipline and respect of a regular employment, while teaching them marketable skills.

The WCC would be housed in the Department of Administration and a board would provide direction and facilitate projects. A third-party organization specializing in conservation will be charged with the administration of the WCC and supply programming for corps members.

Senate Bill 690 recreates the WCC primarily by leveraging newly available federal AmeriCorps funding. In Wisconsin, AmeriCorps funding is administered by Serve Wisconsin. We expect that more than \$7 million will be available in 2010 for Wisconsin's AmeriCorps-funded efforts – twice as much funding as in 2009. Other federal legislation will likely bring additional funding allocated to the states for youth corps programs.

The program itself requires commitments from the Department of Natural Resources, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands and other state agencies willing to use existing funding for the program. In addition to upfront capital, the state match can also be accounted for by using existing funding for state programs, such as high school equivalency degrees offered by the Technical Colleges.

This is enabling legislation. The bill does not appropriate funding, but rather directs DOA to develop a plan for administering the program and identify funding sources – that plan will receive review and approval by the Joint Finance Committee.

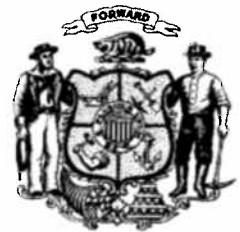
The companion bill, AB 910 passed out of the Natural Resources Committee 14-1 and passed the Joint Committee on Finance yesterday. There is one amendment to be voted on which was suggested by members of Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Senate Amendment 1 would cap total state expenditures at \$400,000, and it would specify that the appropriation must be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Finance.

While drafting this bill, Senator Miller, Representative Mason and I organized a workgroup of many members from Serve Wisconsin, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, the Department of Administration, the Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Foundation, the Technical Colleges, UW-Colleges/Extension, nonprofit conservation crews and former WCC executive directors, crew leaders and members.

Just like during the Great Depression, our nation and state face major challenges today. The advent of a Civilian Conservation Corps brought hope to many young workers struggling to find employment, and we can do that again on a state level with a new Wisconsin Conservation Corps. WCC was an organization that meant a great deal to a lot of people, and by reviving this popular program, Wisconsin will be investing in new jobs and keeping a proud tradition of conservation alive.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Date ?

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Testimony on Senate Bill 690---Wisconsin Conservation Corp

Good morning. My name is Don Hammes and I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. I am here today on behalf of the Wildlife Federation to testify in support of Senate Bill 690. I am also here because I once worked for the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and have some first hand knowledge of the benefits of this program.

SB 690, if passed, would restore a conservation program that would positively impact many young people of Wisconsin, many cities, county and non-profit organizations and many members of the wildlife community of Wisconsin. When I worked for WCC I was the Publication Editor and marketing/communications person for the main office here in Madison. For nearly four years I traveled all over the state reporting on the different WCC projects being worked on and the different sponsors of those projects. On all accounts this program was then what is known as a "win, win, win program" and if restored will once again be a "win, win, win program" for Wisconsin. Let me tell you why.

The WCC Program took hundreds of young people, who had little or no direction in their lives, no skill or trade that they could use to obtain gainful employment, little or no income, and in many cases, homeless and gave them everything they needed to get their feet back on the ground. This new Corps program will accomplish the same thing. It will give young people throughout the state a job, with a paycheck, and it will give these young people an opportunity to learn some job skills that they can use to find permanent employment. More importantly, the WCC will give them some self esteem and confidence and instill in them the will to succeed. Both the old program and the proposed new program also provides an opportunity for these young people to obtain a scholarship from the AmeriCorps Program that will help pay their tuition at a local technical college or a university.

A second benefit of this program was the completion of thousands of conservation related jobs all across the state including new trail construction, trout stream improvements, timber stand improvement, removal of invasive species, stream bank stabilization, prairie restoration, the construction of shelters and benches and many, many more projects. These projects not only improved habitat for wildlife they restored and improved Wisconsin's natural resources that we all enjoy so much.

And thirdly, this program provided the means for many city, county and town governments as well as the Department of Natural Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, all with reduced budgets, to get many badly needed conservation projects completed that otherwise would not have been completed. And this is where we are today, these same city, county and town governments and the DNR and Fish and Wildlife Service all are experiencing reduced budgets that leave our public woods, fields and streams neglected, overrun by invasive species and in a deteriorating condition. The degradation of our natural resources negatively impacts the multi-million dollar tourist industry, the multi-million dollar hunting, fishing and trapping industry and many other outdoor recreational activities. With your approval, approval in the Assembly and the Governors signature, the Wisconsin Conservation Corps can once again help our young people, provide jobs, restore natural resources, and support the tourism and sporting industries

As former Governor Tommy Thompson said, "One of the smartest things we did in this state was to create the Wisconsin Conservation Corps." Ladies and gentlemen, let's do it again....the need is as great today as it has ever been. Pass SB 690.

Thank you