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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2011-12

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Natural Resources...

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: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (August 2013)

- Tim Andryk, Madison — Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Richard Thiel, Tomah
- Adrian Treves, Madison
- Randle Jurewicz, Madison

Registrations For

- George Meyer, Madison — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Carl Schoettel, Neosho — Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association
- Terry Moulton, Madison — Senator, 23rd Senate District
- Jordan Lamb — Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association
- Jordan Lamb, Madison — Wisconsin Pork Association
- Jordan Lamb, Madison — Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association
- Jim Holperin, Madison — Senator, 12th Senate District
- Brian Dake, Madison — Wisconsin Independent Businesses
- Ron Kuehn, Madison — Wisconsin Bow Hunters Association

Registrations Against

- Alyson Bodai, Madison — Humane Society of the United States
- Genie Ogden, Madison

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

February 22, 2012

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (14) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark and Hulsey.

Absent: (2) Representatives Steineke and Milroy.

Excused: (0) None.

Moved by Representative Rivard, seconded by Representative Kleefisch that **Assembly Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (14) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark and Hulsey.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (2) Representatives Steineke and Milroy.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 ADOPTION RECOMMENDED,
Ayes 14, Noes 0

Moved by Representative Danou, seconded by Representative Molepske Jr that **Assembly Amendment 3** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (5) Representatives Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark and Hulsey.

Noes: (9) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Tiffany, Stroebel and Litjens.

Absent: (2) Representatives Steineke and Milroy.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 3 ADOPTION NOT
RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 9

Moved by Representative Molepske Jr, seconded by Representative Danou that **Assembly Amendment 5** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (4) Representatives Molepske Jr, Mason, Clark and Hulsey.

Noes: (10) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Danou.

Absent: (2) Representatives Steineke and Milroy.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 5 ADOPTION NOT
RECOMMENDED, Ayes 4, Noes 10

Moved by Representative Danou, seconded by Representative Molepske Jr that **Assembly Amendment 7** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (12) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark and Hulsey.

Noes: (2) Representatives Severson and Tiffany.

Absent: (2) Representatives Steineke and Milroy.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 7 ADOPTION RECOMMENDED,
Ayes 12, Noes 2

Moved by Representative Molepske Jr, seconded by Representative Mason that **Assembly Amendment 8** be recommended for adoption.

- Ayes: (5) Representatives Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark and Hulsey.
- Noes: (9) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Tiffany, Stroebel and Litjens.
- Absent: (2) Representatives Steineke and Milroy.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 8 ADOPTION NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 9

Moved by Representative Molepske Jr, seconded by Representative Danou that be recommended for introduction.

- Ayes: (14) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason, Danou, Clark and Hulsey.
- Noes: (0) None.
- Absent: (2) Representatives Steineke and Milroy.

INTRODUCTION RECOMMENDED, Ayes 14, Noes 0

Moved by Representative Molepske Jr, seconded by Representative Danou that **Assembly Amendment 9** be recommended for adoption.

- Ayes: (4) Representatives Molepske Jr, Danou, Clark and Hulsey.
- Noes: (10) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Tiffany, Stroebel, Litjens, Mason.
- Absent: (2) Representatives Steineke and Milroy.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 9 ADOPTION NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 4, Noes 10

Moved by Representative Rivard, seconded by Representative Danou that **Assembly Bill 502** be recommended for passage as amended.

- Ayes: (13) Representatives Mursau, Rivard, Williams, Kleefisch, Nerison, Severson, Tiffany,

Stroebel, Litjens, Molepske Jr, Mason,
Danou and Clark.

Noes: (1) Representative Hulsey.

Absent: (2) Representatives Steineke and Milroy.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 13, Noes 1



Tim Gary
Committee Clerk

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 22, 2012

Moved by: Rivard

Seconded by: Kleefisch

AB 502 _____ SB _____ 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

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Erik Severson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Michelle Litjens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Cory Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 14 _____ 2 _____

Motion Carried Motion Failed

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 22, 2012

Moved by: Danon

Seconded by: Mason? Molep?

AB 502 _____ SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 3
 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>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Erik Severson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Michelle Litjens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Cory Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 5 9 2 _____

Motion Carried Motion Failed

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 22, 2012

Moved by: Molepske Seconded by: Danou

AB 502 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 5
 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	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Erik Severson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Michelle Litjens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Cory Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 22, 2012

Moved by: Danou

Seconded by: Molepske

AB 502 _____ SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 7
 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>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Erik Severson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Michelle Litjens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Cory Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 12 2 2 _____

Motion Carried Motion Failed

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 22, 2012

Moved by: Molepske Seconded by: MASON

AB 502 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 8
 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: Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Passage Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence
 Introduction

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Erik Severson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Michelle Litjens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Cory Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	_____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 22, 2012

Moved by: Molepske Seconded by: Danou

AB 502 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other: a2447

A/S Amdt 9
 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: Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Passage Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence
 Introduction

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Erik Severson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Michelle Litjens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Cory Mason	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 4 10 2 _____

Motion Carried Motion Failed

Vote Record Committee on Natural Resources

Date: February 22, 2012

Moved by: Rivard

Seconded by: Danou

AB 502 _____ SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 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

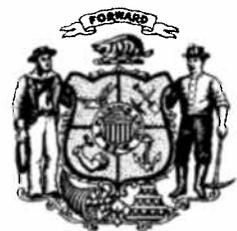
<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Roger Rivard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joel Kleefisch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Representative Erik Severson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jim Steineke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Thomas Tiffany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Duey Stroebel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Michelle Litjens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske Jr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Cory Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Chris Danou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Fred Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Nick Milroy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Brett Hulsey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 13 1 2 _____

Motion Carried Motion Failed



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Assembly Natural Resources Committee

February 1, 2012

Re: Assembly Bill 502 related to hunting and trapping of wolves in Wisconsin

Dear Chairman Mursau and Members of the Committee:

The comments herein are submitted on behalf of the Humane Society of the United States (The HSUS), a non-profit animal protection organization with more than 256,400 members and supporters in Wisconsin.

We oppose this Bill and urge the Committee to vote no on AB 502.

The gray wolf in Wisconsin was driven to the brink of extinction and placed on the Endangered Species List. In 1996, the population was less than 100. Although the population has slowly increased to 800 and was federally delisted on January 27 of this year, state management should be undertaken with great caution. For the record, The HSUS opposed the delisting. The gray wolf has not recovered nationally – the wolf currently occupies only 5 % of its historic range. Further, The HSUS was the lead party in successfully challenging the proposed federal delistings in 2007 and 2009.

The State's principal goal now should be the resolution of wolf conflicts with farmers -- not hunting and trapping of wolves. As long as wolves remain delisted, the state can authorize owners of livestock and domestic animals to address bona fide incidents of depredation. This, we believe, will largely resolve the issue of wolf depredation, which has been underlying wolf conflicts for many years. In addition, the USDA Wildlife Services and the WI DNR have been developing non lethal techniques to discourage wolves from depredating on livestock. We strongly urge the State to integrate these approaches into the wolf management plan and continue the compensation program for farmers that lose livestock to wolves.

We believe that hunting and trapping will undermine the long term survival of the wolf in Wisconsin. Further, the Fish and Wildlife Service will be closely monitoring the population for five years after delisting.

The wolf is an iconic species beloved by many residents of the state. We must take care of this precious natural resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely

Alyson Bodai, Wisconsin State Director

Anita W. Couper, Esq.
Chair of the Board
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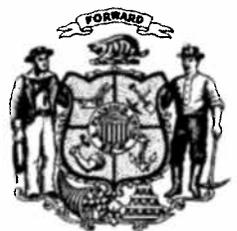
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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Wednesday, February 1, 2012
9:30 AM – 417 North**

Testimony on AB 502 – Wolf Legislation – Testifying for Information Only

**Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

Wolf Population

Today is a historic day. With the introduction of AB 502, and our discussion of a potential wolf harvest season, we acknowledge that the gray wolf population has improved in our state beyond multiple recovery standards, and is a remarkable success story of endangered species management.

We've been fighting hard to gain this authority, and we are grateful to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for removing gray wolves in the upper Midwest from the lists of endangered and threatened species. We are ready and capable of managing Wisconsin's wolf population at a healthy, sustainable level and we welcome the opportunity to begin addressing those areas where problem wolves are attacking domestic animals.

In Wisconsin, as well as our neighboring states of Minnesota and Michigan wolves have exceeded their Federal delisting goals. In Wisconsin our Federal recovery goal was 100 wolves between Michigan and Wisconsin outside of Indian Reservations. That goal has been exceeded over 8 times over and we are relieved that management has now returned to our state.

The Wisconsin wolf population has grown from about 25 wolves in 1980 to over 800 wolves in 2011 (mid winter minimum count), and a new count will be completed by spring 2012. This far exceeds both the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan goal of 350 and the federal recovery goal of 100 (See Figure 1).

One of the key indicators that wolves have exceeded an important social carrying capacity are the number of wolf related depredations occurring in the state (Figure 2.). In Fiscal year 2011, the Bureau of Endangered Resources spent nearly \$187,000 on depredation payments. Total payments made for wolf damages have been on a sharply increasing trend since the 1980s. In Fiscal Year 2012, damage payments are expected to exceed \$316,000.

Post Delisting

As of last Friday, January 27, 2012, the Federal delisting of gray wolves in the western great lakes took effect. Immediately, as directed by the Governor and allowed under the state's wolf management plan, we began issuing permits to landowners that had a history of wolf depredation problems. In total, we sent permits to over 100 landowners that had experienced a wolf depredation within the last two years.

Wisconsin's 1999 wolf management plan and a 2007 addendum to the plan will be the basis of wolf management in the state. These documents outline the conservation strategy for Wisconsin's wolf population, as well as, outlining the approach for controlling depredation situations.

We currently have the authority to issue permits authorizing the shooting or trapping of wolves on privately owned property if one of the following conditions exist:

1. At least one verified depredation has occurred within the last 2 years on owned or leased land.
2. A verified depredation has occurred within 1 mile of the applicant's property with vulnerable animals within the current calendar year.
3. A landowner's property exists within a Proactive Control Area created by DNR and the landowner has livestock at risk from wolf depredations.
4. Human safety concern from wolves exists on the property as determined by USDA Wildlife Services or DNR.
5. Harassment of livestock is occurring and based on the judgment of USDA Wildlife Services a permit should be issued.

Permits are valid for 90-days from the date of issuance (renewable at the end of the 90 days). A summary of the applicable permit conditions are as follows:

- Authorized participants are the permittee and resident family members. Up to two additional persons may be designated at the time of permit issuance to assist with the removal of wolves. Assistants must be listed on the permit.
- Shooting and trapping is permitted on land owned or leased by the permittee.
- All wolves shot or trapped must be reported within 24 hours and turned over to the Department.
- A trapping license is required for trapping of wolves as are specific trapping techniques and equipment which will be conditions of any trapping permits issued.

Landowners or people leasing land also now have authority to shoot wolves when they witness a wolf in the act of attacking domestic animals on their land. Along with permits to landowners, the services of U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Service trappers will again be available to trap and remove problem wolves in Wisconsin.

Currently, the gray wolf is considered a protected wild animal, which means that authorization from the DNR is required (such as a landowner permit) before a person can attempt to "take" or kill a wolf, unless the wolf is in the process of attacking personal property on private land.

USDA-Wildlife Service, which operates in Wisconsin under a contract with the DNR, will be available to investigate reports of wolf depredations and when wolf depredations are verified would be authorized to capture problem wolves. Because suitable wolf habitat is saturated in Wisconsin, wolves captured at depredation sites will not be relocated but will be euthanized.

Monitoring

With the federal delisting of wolves, states will be required to continue monitoring of the state wolf populations for the next five years. The department currently uses a system of radio-tracking collared wolves, snow track surveys and collection of public wolf observations to track population trends.

The DNR will continue to recruit and train citizen volunteers to assist with wolf management, primarily through tracking surveys.

The Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan calls for annual monitoring for at least 5 years after Federal delisting, including health monitoring as part of the capture protocol.

Monitoring techniques to assess wolf abundance include:

1. Weekly radio tracking by DNR pilots of 30-60 radio collared wolves spread across northern and central Wisconsin.
2. Conducting intense snow tracking surveys for wolves along snow covered forest roads of northern and central parts of the state by 10-12 agency personnel and about 150 volunteers.
3. Furbearer winter track counts, consisting of 2 ten-mile segments per county of snow covered roads that are examined for furbearer abundance each winter by wildlife managers.
4. Annual reports of observations by DNR field people on selected state mammals.
5. Wolf reports by the general public and agency personnel (rare mammal reports) will be collected, investigated, placed in a data file and used to guide winter and summer DNR surveys.

Bill Assessment

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the bill. As established in Wisconsin's Wolf Management Plan, a public harvest of wolves could occur once the wolf population reaches 350 wolves. As I have already stated, we have surpassed that number 2 to 3 times over. Further, the department cannot pursue a public harvest season without first having enabling legislation that would allow us to set up the parameters under which hunting and trapping could occur. These specifics would be contained within administrative rules authorized under legislation such as AB 502.

While we feel that we have the tools to address problem wolves, a harvest season would provide us an additional tool to bring the wolf population in line with the goals established in our state management plan. Wolf management is more than reducing wolf numbers. Wolf management also involves knowing when to reduce harvest pressure. Management also involves monitoring the population, and assuring the health of the population.

As drafted AB 502 allows the department to issue permits, regulate permit numbers, close a season through emergency procedures, and establish harvest goals to assure that we retain a sustainable population of wolves in this state. After all, that is what is important. We need to be able to assure we maintain a sustainable population of wolves in this state; that wolves are viewed as a valued species on our landscape; and that wolves remain under our management. It is in everyone's interest that we effectively manage wolves so we are able to retain management of these majestic creatures.

In addition to hunting, the DNR supports trapping. Trapping is a legitimate means of recreation and management that predates our statehood. We are always looking to make sure we make decisions that will assure that trapping is efficient, effective and eliminates the capture of non-target animals. For that reason we will actively be involved in the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to identify traps and cable restraint standards that will work best for wolves. Research on wolf BMPs is currently underway in Canada.

In reviewing the bill, we have also identified a few areas that may improve the bill, and assure that the delisting is successful and that Wisconsin retains its management authority over the gray wolf.

First, in regard to funding, we noticed that the bill did not amend or repeal s. 71.10(5)(a)2., Wis. Stats. As written, AB 502 would in essence establish a second funding source for reimbursing landowners, farmers and pet owners for losses and damages caused by wolves. This bill establishes a new funding source, through permit fees and licenses, for funding wolf damages without modifying ch. 71, which establishes that funding from the endangered resources fund shall pay for wolf damages and losses. We would suggest that s. 71.10(5)(a)2. be modified so it did not fund damages due to wolves when wolves are federally delisted.

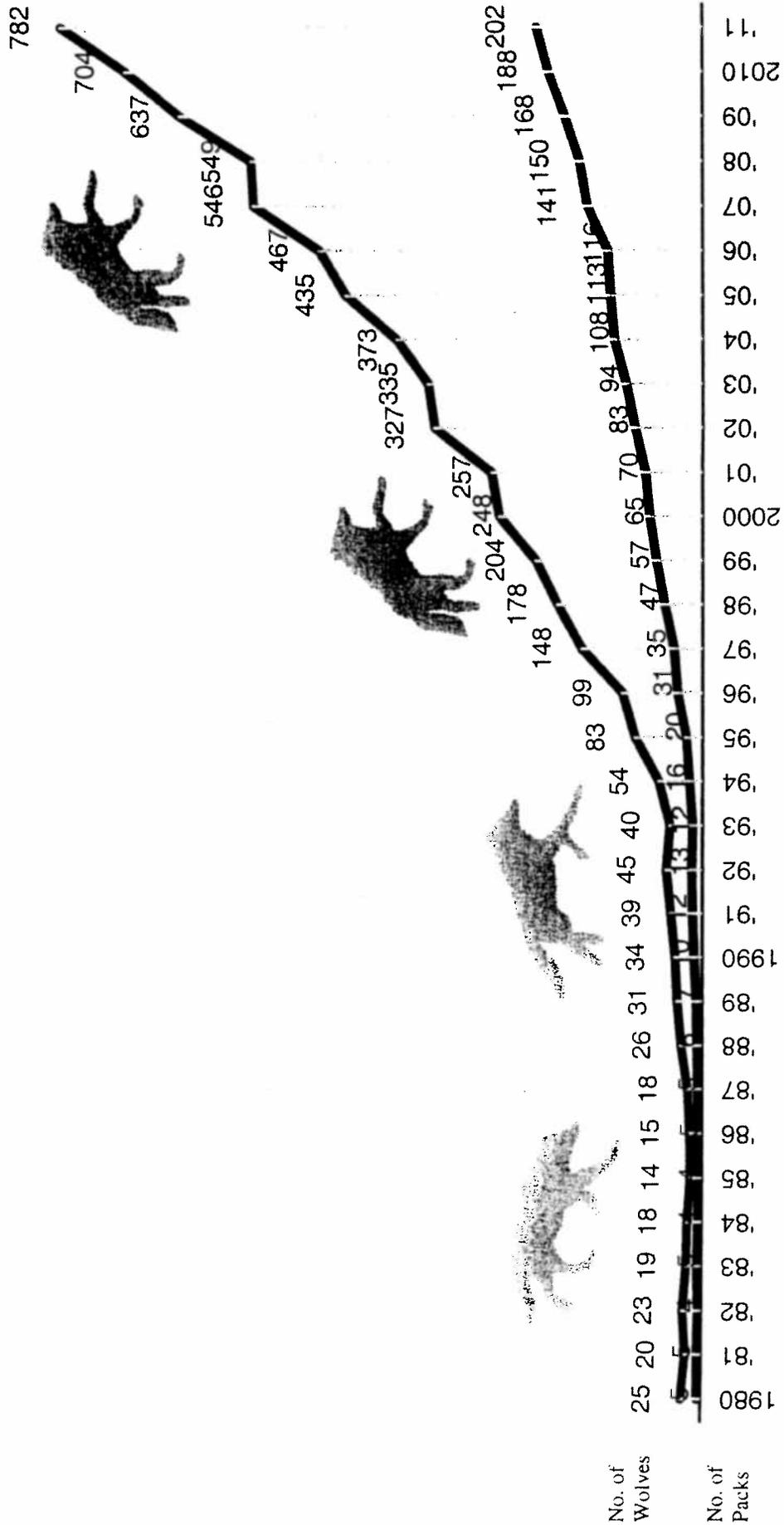
Second, and this is often overlooked, the bill does not provide for a duplicate license. Duplicate licenses are typically available for a majority of our licenses at half the price of a regularly priced license. Considering it would be approximately \$100, we feel that the public would appreciate this option.

Next, while we appreciate the confidence of the legislator and the bill's sponsor, we would respectfully request additional time to promulgate a follow-up permanent rule. Four months is currently granted to come forward with a permanent rule and we are concerned that we simply cannot successfully see a rule promulgated due to steps in the rule process. We will be unable to consult with the agricultural community and other stakeholders in the development of an Economic Impact Assessment. If we could have 8 or more months we would feel better about being able to live up to the expectations of that section of the bill.

As we stated earlier, successfully staying delisted will depend on our ability to assure the Fish and Wildlife Service and the courts that we can responsibly manage our wolf population, and responsible management requires closely regulated harvest. That can be done through permits, seasons, and regulated harvest. Currently, in our opinion, sections 9 and 10 of the bill would unnecessarily risk our ability to remain delisted. If every landowner had the opportunity to trap wolves year round on their property, or shoot wolves during the month of February, we lose the ability to closely monitor that harvest enough to assure that an over harvest didn't occur.

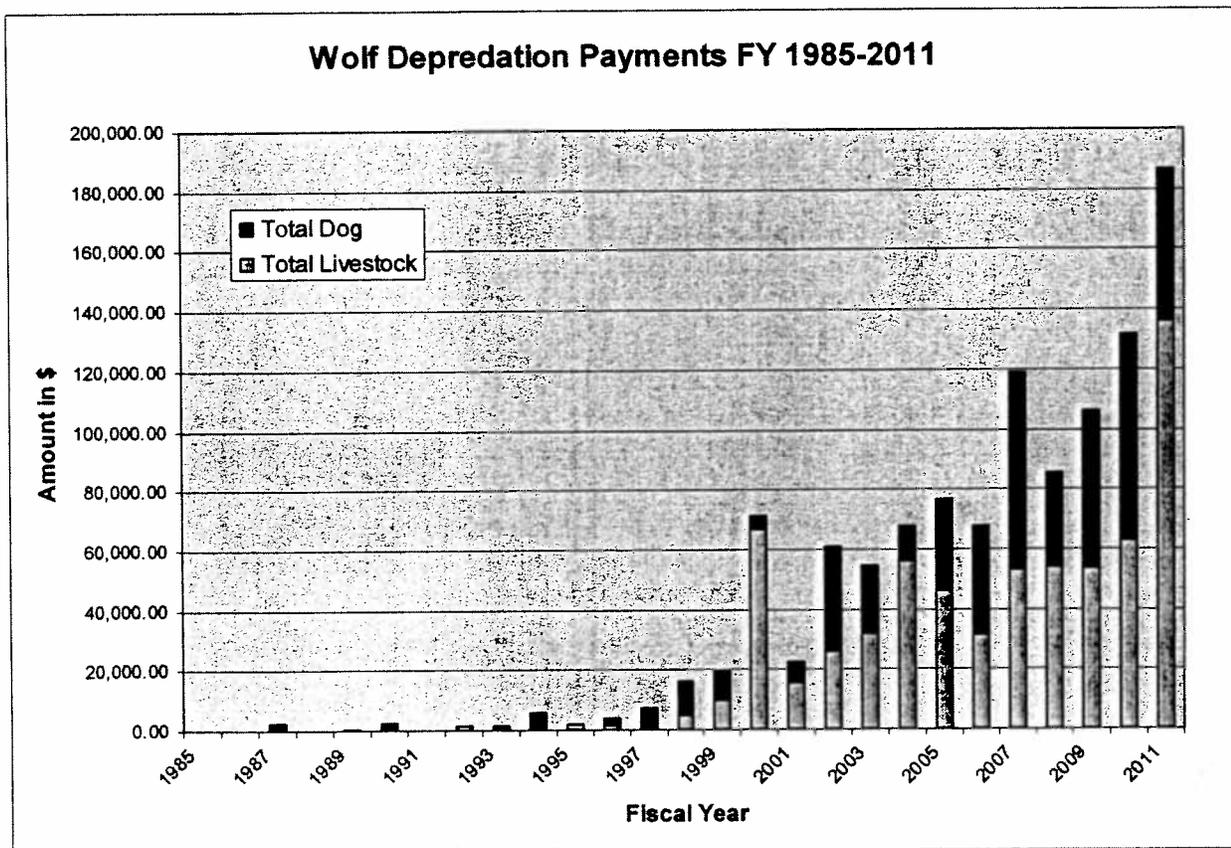
We greatly appreciate the opportunity to testify on this historic bill. We appreciate your time hear today and your consideration of this bill. This bill will provide us with another tool to help manage our wolves responsibly, and give our public an increased role in the management of this important and valued species. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Figure 1. Changes in Wisconsin Gray Wolf Population: 1980-2011



Wolf recovery in Wisconsin: Extirpated from our state by 1960, the wolf naturally began to come back to Wisconsin in the early 1970's by crossing over from neighboring Minnesota. In the winter of 1974-75 a wolf pack was discovered in the border area between Wisconsin and Minnesota. The gray wolf was listed as a federally endangered species in the lower 48 states in 1974 by the US Government. The Wisconsin DNR listed wolves as a state endangered species in 1975. A recovery plan for Wisconsin wolves was initiated in 1989, and its goal of 80 plus wolves for the state was first achieved in 1995. The state downlisted wolves to state threatened in 1999, the same year the Fish and Wildlife Service first began the process of downlisting wolves from endangered to threatened. That same year the state adopted a wolf management plan to help guide the decisions of our agency and our state officials once wolves reached specific thresholds. The plan articulated that once wolves reached 250 wolves for one year, they would be delisted here in our state. Once wolves surpassed the management threshold of 350 wolves, specific management authorities would be available to the state. One of those tools is a wolf harvest season employing hunting and trapping. That goal was chosen as the minimum level at which proactive control and public harvest could occur.

Figure 2 *Wolf Depredation payments 1985 - 2011*



Other States with Wolf Harvests

Alaska

- Hunting and trapping
- \$25 hunt license or \$15 trap license (\$85 nonresident license & \$30 tag)
- harvest 1300 annually by hunters & trappers from population of 7000-11,000

Idaho

- Hunting & trapping
- \$11.50 resident tag, \$31.75 nonresident tag
- harvest 2009-2010 season, 188 wolves
- as of 1/26/12, 201 hunted & 59 trapped from population of ~1,000

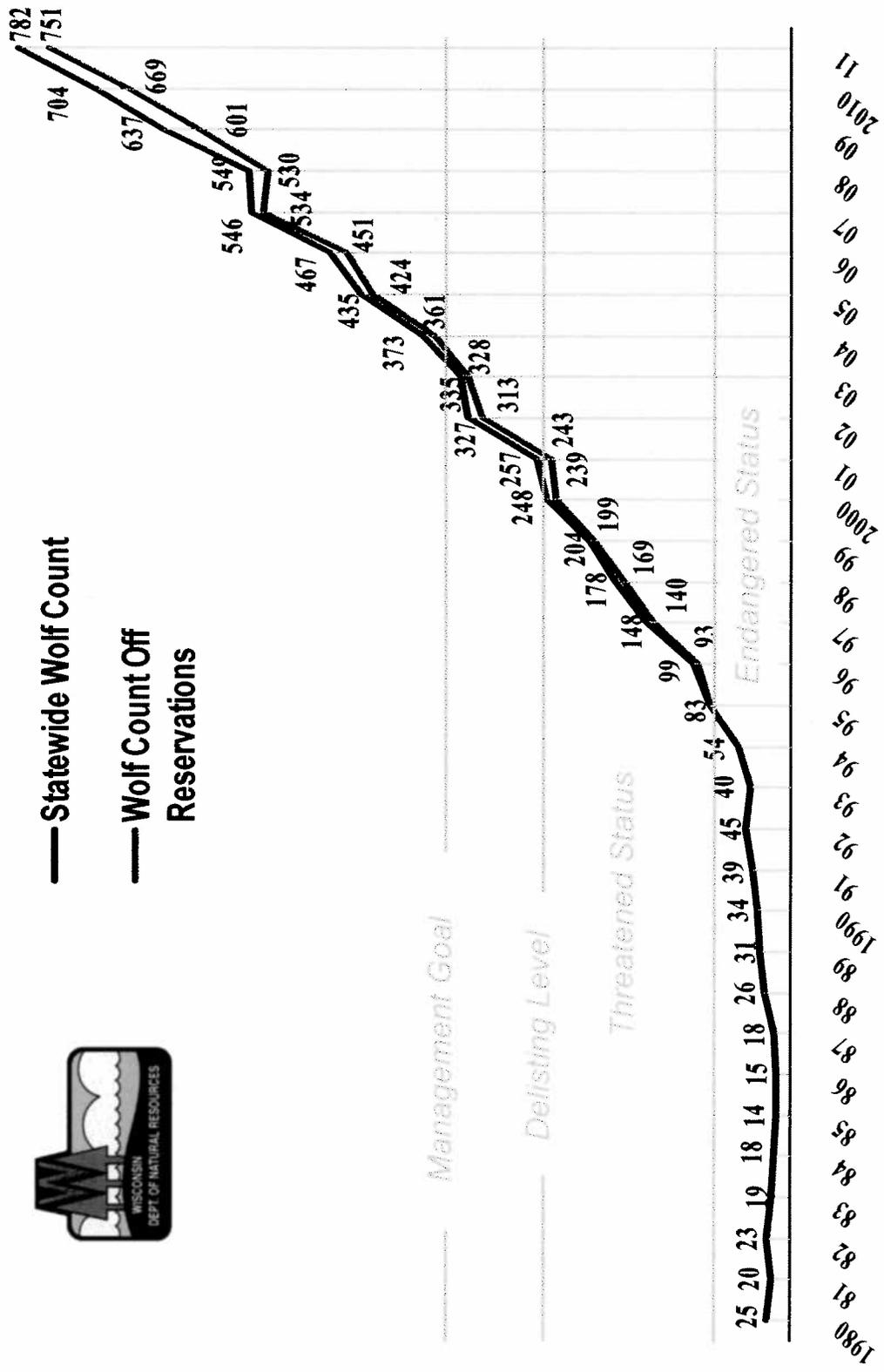
Montana

- Hunting only
- \$19 resident + \$8 conservation license (\$350 nonresident + \$10 conservation license)
- harvest 2009-2010 season, 72 wolves
- as of 1/26/12, 139 harvested from population of 570

Minnesota (proposed)

- Hunting and trapping, no dogs
- \$5 application fee, \$50 permit
- plan 6,000 permit for quota of 400 wolves in population of ~ 3,000

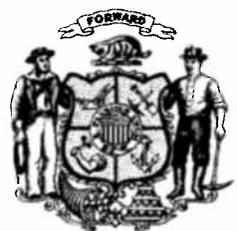
Minimum Statewide Wolf Counts & Counts Off Indian Reservations in Wisconsin 1980-2011



2010 - 2011 Wolf Packs

- Territory without Radio collared Wolf
- Territory with previous Radio collared Wolf
- Territory with Radio collared Wolf
- 2011 Probable Wolf Range







Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology
120 Russell Laboratories, 1630 Linden Drive
Madison WI 53706-1598 USA
ph: (+1) 608-262-9975 fax: (+1) 608-262-9922
<http://wildlife.wisc.edu>
<http://forest.wisc.edu>

1 February 2012

To: Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Natural Resources

Subject: Testimony from Timothy R. Van Deelen Ph.D. on Assembly Bill 502

Distinguished members of the Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Natural Resources;

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today on Assembly Bill 502. I am a certified Wildlife Biologist and an associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology at the UW-Madison where I teach a course in Animal Population Dynamics each spring. My research program addresses the population dynamics and management of deer, black bears, and wolves in Wisconsin and I recently co-authored and co-edited an academic book on wolf recovery in the Great Lakes region. I have consulted, served, and collaborated over the years with the Wisconsin DNR, the Natural Resources Board, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association. I am here representing myself as a fourth generation Wisconsin resident and fan of Wisconsin's conservation legacy.

I support hunting as a recreational pursuit and as a means of achieving conservation goals. I supported the recent de-listing of wolves under the Federal Endangered Species Act and I support having a wolf hunt in Wisconsin.

Whatever one thinks of wolves personally, the realities of wolf depredation and state and federal endangered species laws suggest that there are two imperatives for the management of wolves and by extension for the role of hunting in management. These are 1) the desire to minimize depredations and 2) the desire to avoid population declines that trigger endangered species protections. A third imperative may be the desire to enhance the value of the wolf as a game animal available for recreational harvest.

With these goals in mind, I respectfully request the Committee consider amending Assembly Bill 502 in two ways.

First, I suggest that Bill 502's provision for creating a "total number of wolf zones (which) may not exceed 4" (section 5) does not provide managers with enough flexibility in directing recreational harvests to areas where wolves are causing depredations. By definition, a sustainable harvest implies that there is an upper limit to the number of individuals that can be harvested. Hence to be effective at addressing depredations, managers should be directing the bulk of the harvest towards areas where depredations occur - setting up a potential trade-off between harvests which are useful in reducing depredation events and those that are not. The complement to this reasoning is the additive benefit of directing harvest away from areas that can be considered core parts of the wolf range thereby providing a portion of the population the stability needed to avoid triggering endangered species protections.

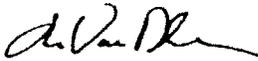
Second, I suggest that Bill 502's provision for placing the wolf on the list of species that landowners may harvest without a license (section 9) may be counter-productive. Relative to coyotes, foxes, raccoon woodchucks, rabbits and squirrels (the other animals on this list), wolves exist at very low density and rely on social facilitation (pack formation) for breeding and pup-rearing. This means that our wolf population is much more sensitive to the removal of an individual - especially a breeding individual - than are the populations of other animals on this list. And again, because sustainable harvests have ceiling, opportunistic removals by unlicensed landowners in one year probably incur an opportunity cost in terms of directing wolf harvest to areas where depredations are most severe during the

next year. They also incur an opportunity cost in terms of longer waits for potential license-buyers who are accumulating preference points (section 6) in hopes of harvesting a wolf. We do not allow these opportunistic harvests of our marquee game species like deer, black bears, or turkeys despite the fact that for most landowners, deer, black bears, and turkeys are probably more likely than wolves to cause damage to a landowner's property. Livestock producers are the obvious exception.

There has been relatively little research on the effects of harvest on wolf populations. Research in Ontario suggested that harvests disrupt the family-based pack structure of wolves leading to packs that may disintegrate and scatter. This phenomenon could mean that harvesting has unintended consequences such as, for example, providing a mechanism by which harvests in core areas actually facilitate more movement into agricultural areas. I am hopeful that your committee will consider my comments in light of providing managers the flexibility to deal with these contingencies.

Thank you for your attention.

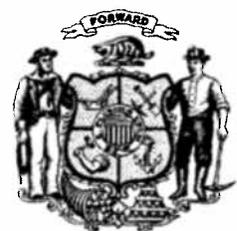
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy R. Van Deelen', written in a cursive style.

Timothy R. Van Deelen
Associate professor



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Testimony of the Wildlife Federation in Support of AB 502 Establishing Wolf Harvest Regulation in Wisconsin

Chairman Mursau and Members of the Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity be here today on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the 170 hunting, fishing and trapping organizations that we represent across the state. The Federation strongly supports AB 502 that establishes a framework to manage a state regulated harvest of wolves in Wisconsin. We commend Representative Suder and Senator Moulton for their lead authorship of this bill.

The Wildlife Federation has been a leader in the state conservation community for the delisting of the wolf off the state and federal endangered species list. After a great deal of work by many in the hunting and trapping community that day has come. The Federation submitted one of the initial legal petitions for the federal delisting and also collected 36,739 signatures on a Citizens Petition to support the delisting.

The Federation supports the main purpose of the bill which is to provide a public harvest of wolves by means of hunting and trapping. The Wildlife Federation endorsed such legislation as early as 2004 contingent on the federal delisting of the wolf. The bill gives the Department of Natural Resources sufficient authority to manage the wolf population consistent with the Federally approved state wolf management plan.

The Federation recommends three friendly changes to the bill:

1. The first suggestion we have is that the bill be modified to include specific Legislative direction to the Department to manage the wolf population in a manner to assure that it remains off the Federal and State Endangered Species list. The Federation has no doubt that the Department of Natural Resources would do that. The reason we are recommending that this language be added is that while the wolf has been removed from the Endangered List by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, there should be little doubt that the extreme Humane Society

of the United States will be filing a lawsuit to overturn the delisting. It is also likely that they will point to this legislation as one of the reasons for the Federal Court to overturn the delisting. It will be very beneficial to blunt their argument by pointing out the Legislative direction to the DNR to manage the wolf population in a manner to keep the wolf population above the goal necessary to keep it off the Federal list.

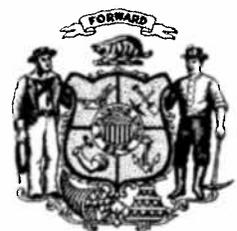
2. The Federation recommends that the bill be modified to remove the provision authorizing the DNR to prevent a coyote season during the gun hunting season in the areas populated by wolves. The hunters in this state have been prevented from such harvest for many years under the guise that it was necessary to protect the wolf population. Unfortunately DNR has kept this unnecessary regulation on the books even after the wolf population has exploded. It is time to restore the opportunity for coyote hunting back to the sportsmen and women of the state. Coyotes have become a major predator of the deer population in the state and having the ability to harvest a coyote during the gun deer season will assist in reducing the coyote population.
3. Lastly, the Federation supports a change in the bill to require actual physical registration of the wolf by a DNR agent. There are two good reasons to require this. It would allow the Department to capture physical and biological information on the harvested wolves that would be helpful in managing the population in a manner to assure that it remains off the Federal and State Endangered Species Act. Secondly, direct registration would allow for the successful hunter to trapper to obtain a CITES tag which will be necessary for the owner to take the carcass over the state line at any point.

Chairman Mursau, once again, thank you for the opportunity to present the testimony of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation in strong support of AB 502.

Submitted by:
Ralph Fritsch, Chair
Wildlife Committee
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



This is a good first DRAFT at a WI Wolf Harvest Season....it just needs some editing and rewriting to make it actually useful and realistic.

My Background: Worked on wolf management for DNR for 31 years. Paid all wolf damage claims from 1985 to 2011. I am now retired but I continue to donate money to the Endangered Resources fund on my WI Income Tax form. Since my personal expertise is with the payment of wolf depredation claims in Wisconsin, I will address that topic:

In the "Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau" there is a statement that says "Under current law, DNR has promulgated rules establishing [a wolf damage payment program]. This implies that it will be a simple matter to just continue to pay wolf damage claims. NR 12 Subchapter III. What this analysis fails to acknowledge is the "Applicability" clause in this rule:

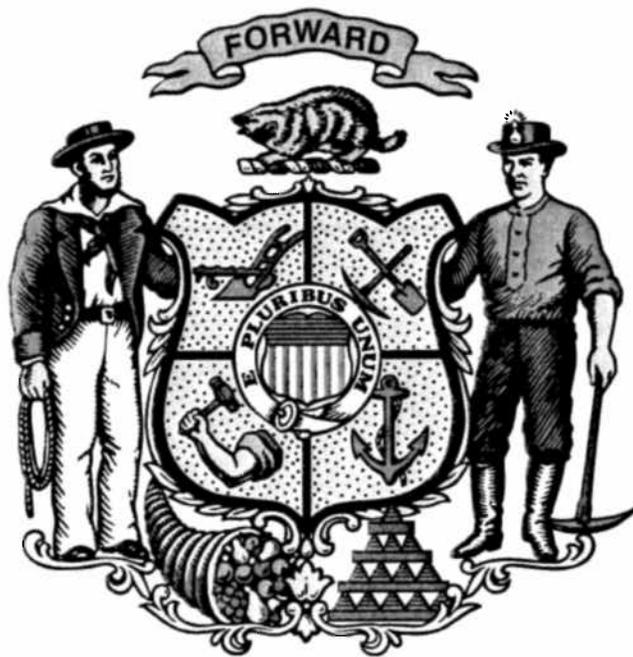
NR12.51 Applicability. This subchapter applies to claims for damage caused by E/T species and gray wolves. It is not applicable to damage caused by gray wolves when the department authorizes either public hunting or trapping of gray wolves, or both.

This sunset clause was included in the Endangered Resources Damage Payment rule as a reminder. It was a reminder that when wolves become a game animal it is no longer appropriate to use the VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS to the Endangered Resources Fund to pay for damage done by a game animal.

Wolf damage payments from the Endangered Resources Fund were totally justified when wolves were classified as an endangered species, and when they were classified as a threatened species, and even when wolves were a "protected wild animal" under state law but still classified as an Endangered Species under federal law.

Section 16 of AB502 establishes a wolf depredation payment program funded in part by the new license fees but it continues to also use funds from the Endangered Resources Fund [s. 20.370(1)(fs)]. This bill desperately needs to be amended to specifically remove gray wolf damage payments from the Endangered Resources Fund.

Respectfully Submitted By: Randle Jurewicz, 6129 Birch Hill Drive
Madison, WI 53711



Executive Summary

Comments on Assembly Bill 502

Richard P. Thiel

1. **Section 1. 20.370 (5) (fv)** Funding source for this bill should replace and nullify existing sources of revenue in support of depredation program.
2. **29.185 (5) SEASONS; ZONES (a)** Season should commence in mid October and end prior to mid December. The DNR should have authority to establish seasons or close the season.
3. **29.185 (5) SEASONS; ZONES (b)** Expression of 4 wolf management zones in this Bill obligates the DNR to maintain 4 zones. Reference to the number of zones should be stricken. This should be left to the professional managers within DNR to determine.
4. **29.185 (5) SEASONS; ZONES “(d) *Hunting at Night*.”** This entire provision should be stricken. This is dangerous to both dogs and humans, and may constitute a Public Health Risk. It will further alienate citizen support for hunting with dogs.
5. **29.185 (7) TAGS, REGISTRATION** Language should be inserted to authorize the DNR to physically register entire carcasses. Data gleaned from this aids in evaluating the success of harvest and in formulating future harvests.
6. **SECTION 9 29.337 (1) intro** the word “wolves” should NOT be included in this provision. Placing them on this list devalues its newfound Game status, and denies DNR access to important harvest information.
7. **29.888 Wolf Depredation Program. (1)** Hunters should NOT be indemnified against losses incurred to wolves while their hunting dogs are training or in pursuit of game.

My name is Richard P. Thiel. I am a resident of Tomah, Wisconsin. I am a retired wildlife biologist having spent my 34 year career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. I created and managed the Wisconsin wolf recovery program between January 1980 and November 1989. From 1989 to 2011 I was employed as a Wildlife Educator with the agency. Between 1995 and 2011 I also managed wolf monitoring activities within the Central forest Region, known as Zone 2 in the approved Wisconsin DNR's Wolf Management Plan. I have written numerous professional and lay articles on wolves, and am author of two books published by the University of Wisconsin Press on Wisconsin's wolves.

I support the concept of a public harvest of gray wolves in Wisconsin, as proposed in Assembly Bill 502. A public harvest of any wild animal species is acceptable provided it meets several criteria: (1) the population can sustain a harvest and remain viable, (2) harvesting supports a recognized form of public recreation, and (3) public harvesting, may be used to mediate conflicts between the wildlife population and Wisconsin citizens. It is generally accepted that authority is granted by the Legislative body to professionals within the Department of Natural Resources to promulgate specific rules and to manage such harvests with these criteria in mind. Wisconsin's wolf population is relatively small and presently occupies a large percentage of professionally recognized wolf habitat presently identified within the state. Harvests will need to be small and fashioned by the sensitivity of this small population to over-harvest. A harvest strategy needs to be conscientious of the widely divergent views of wolves held by Wisconsin citizens and citizens of various Native American tribes.

I offer the following comments in response to specifics within the proposed legislative language of Bill 502:

Section 1. 20.370 (5) (fv) Wolf depredation program. This clause directs that revenues from harvest license will be directed to pay for depredation program. I am unable to find where it specifically nullifies or replaces the existing funding source(s) for this program. It is unclear whether the legislature intended to replace funding sources. I am in favor of replacing it; therefore the language should be more specific.

29.185 (5) SEASONS; ZONES “(a) The department shall establish a single annual open season for both hunting and trapping wolves that begins on October 15th of each year and ends on the last day of February of the following year.”

- (1) This is a lengthy season lasting approximately 135 days. Such an extensive season is both unusual and is not necessary to accomplish the aforementioned objectives.
- (2) Citizens who do not participate in sport harvests may take serious offense at the timing of a harvest for wolves that includes all of the breeding season (January into mid February) that also includes the first full quarter of pregnancy of bred bitches.
- (3) Harvesting wolves from mid-December through the end of February coincides *precisely* with the DNR’s annual census period for wolves. Census surveys for harvested wild animal populations are crucial to gauge future harvest levels. A plethora of scientific work exists on the impacts of harvesting wolves documenting disruption of wolf pack cohesiveness. While perhaps advisable in the cases of packs involved in depredation (and the literature here too suggests this is also inadvisable) a harvest during the winter will disrupt agency census work, is ill advised, and will result in compromised census results. On the one hand the Legislature, in 502 as presently written, directs the DNR to

professionally manage the State's wolf population while denying it the best tool in measuring the size of the population being so managed.

The Legislature needs to provide the agency with sufficient latitude to establish seasons it feels necessary to manage harvests.

29.185 (5) SEASONS; ZONES "(b) The department shall divide the entire state into wolf harvesting zones. The total number of zones may not exceed 4."

This language is taken directly from the presently approved Wolf Management Plan. Agency plans are written specifically to allow for flexibility because both biological communities, in which wild animals thrive, as well as humans who recreate with, encroach upon, or use such resources, change over time. At the time that the Walker Administration arrived, the DNR was beginning a process of re-writing the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan. This procedure was placed on hold. Among the contentious issues the Committee needed to address was revisiting the population goal, re-visiting the 4 zones with eye towards reducing these, and establishing guidelines for a public harvest.

I would suggest, again, that the legislature provides the Department with sufficient latitude to establish however many zones it feels in its professional judgment are necessary to manage the State's wolf population. Specifically, the second sentence in this section should be removed and in the remainder of the bill where reference is made to 4 zones.

29.185 (5) SEASONS; ZONES "(d) *Hunting at Night*. A person may hunt wolves during nighttime beginning with the first Monday that follows the last day of the regular season that is open to hunting deer with firearms and ending on the last day of February of the following year."

As a professional biologist who has spent 40 plus years focusing on wolf ecology with significant hours put in during hours of darkness, I can think of nothing as ludicrous as hunting this particular species *in the darkness of night*. This is no raccoon. This is a powerful predator. I see no provision under other areas of this bill authorizing hunters to use night vision glasses, etc. to effectuate a kill. Presumably, then, this is intended to augment those who would pursue wolves using hound packs armed with flashlights. Specifically then,

- (1) Night-time hunting of wolves would be highly risky to dog packs.
- (2) This activity also poses a Public Health Risk. While there is no certainty to this, there is a risk that human safety may be compromised, ranging from humans hurting humans through an accident, to injury of hunters attempting to separate wolves who have turned on dogs.
- (3) Tensions already exist between the dog hunters in Wisconsin and citizens who do not hunt with dogs and may not hunt at all. It is one thing for dogs to pursue wolves during daylight hours; another during hours of darkness. Does either the Wisconsin Legislature or the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association desire to add more fuel to the fire of this ongoing debate?
- (4) To allow the pursuit of a wolf pack consisting of adult wolves and their offspring, who in the autumn of the year are approximately 6 months old; potentially 24 hours a day over a 90^{day} period constitutes harassment that would likely be exceedingly disruptive to normal wolf pack activities and the maintenance of the species' intrinsic behaviors. I do not believe the intent of this Legislation is to provide our State's sports-people with a means of conducting what most would perceive as un-sports-person-like conduct: recall

from our Hunter Education training that sportspeople adhere to a creed of “fair pursuit”. Night hunting of wolves would call this ethic into question.

29.185 (7) TAGS, REGISTRATION

While establishing provisions for the manner of registering kills, this legislation provides no burden of proof of kill, such as with deer and other species, by means of physically presenting and registering the entire carcass. Data on age and sex and condition are exceedingly valuable tools used by wildlife professionals in promulgating future harvest seasons. Again, it should not be the intent to deny the Agency responsible for managing harvests to be denied the tools by which they can gauge said harvests. This provision should include measures for the DNR to include physical registration.

SECTION 9 29.337 (1) intro “ The owner or occupant of any land, and any member of his or her family, may hunt or trap beaver, coyotes, wolves ...”

I take exception to the addition of wolves into this state statute. Animals in this list are often referred to as “vermin”. With Assembly Bill 502 the Legislature... (1) is elevating the wolf to *Game* status. An animal with this kind of history of former intense persecution should not be simultaneously relegated to “*vermin*” status, and (2) under this provision wolves so harvested will not registered, denying the DNR with the tools to measure the effect of such unregulated take on the population. This Section should not be changed; wolves should be excluded from this provision.

29.888 Wolf Depredation Program. (1) “ The department shall administer a wolf depredation program under which payments may be made to persons who apply for reimbursement for death or injury caused by wolves to livestock, to hunting dogs other than those being actively used in the hunting of wolves...”

I take exception to the clause, “... hunting dogs other than those being actively used in the hunting of wolves...” for the following 2 reasons: (1) this language specifically excludes hunting dogs used during the training period when hound hunters run bears, etc., prior to the commencement of harvest seasons. This omission is unconscionable and needs to be corrected by inserting “training seasons”, irrespective of which species these dogs are being trained to pursue. (2) Dog hunters are finally given their day through this legislation: they will have the ability to harvest wolves. This group of sports people also includes those using hounds to harvest raccoons, foxes, coyotes, bobcats, and black bears. Their angst over wolves – by passage of this bill – is legitimized. The State of Wisconsin does NOT pay or reimburse hound hunters for the injuries or loss of life of dogs who have pursued these other creatures – all of which are game animals. Why is the Legislative body indemnifying this group when they hunt or encounter wolves while this same group of hunters accepts risks in pursuit of other game animals? There is no precedence now that the wolf – through Assembly Bill 502 - is a Game species. There is no rationale for supporting provisions of this nature in this or similar bills or laws. The inclusion of hunting dogs for depredation reimbursements – whether in training or active pursuit to kill this or other legally chased species - must be removed from this legislation.

This legislation, as currently written, presents the Department of Natural Resources significant challenges to implement it. It needs work. Some final advise to the Legislature: portions of this bill, as presently written, will seriously offend many citizens who have supported wolf recovery and have trusted the DNR and the Legislative and Executive branches of their government to do what is best in managing Wisconsin's wolves over the past 35 years. To under-estimate these people, the many organizations *they* belong to, and the feelings and views they hold towards wolves is to invite litigation in both the state and federal court systems that will lock up any progress towards wolf management in Wisconsin in the years ahead. This will result in a higher wolf population, more depredations and will gain nothing other than to further frustrations for all Wisconsin's citizens who have a concern over the proper management of Wisconsin's wolves. It will also be a terrible waste of taxpayers' money.

Thank you for your time.

Richard P. Thiel