

Alberta Darling

Wisconsin State Senator

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

Richard A. Grobschmidt Memorial Bridge

Testimony on Senate Bill 99

Senate Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs

May 3, 2017

Thank you Chair Petrowski and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs for hearing this bill. Senate Bill 99 directs the Department of Natural Resources to designate the bridge on the Hank Aaron State Trail, which connects to the Lakeshore State Park Inlet as the "Richard A. Grobschmidt Memorial Bridge."

Richard A. Grobschmidt, a former Wisconsin State Representative, and State Senator passed away in July at the age of 68.

Yesterday, the Wisconsin State Senate unanimously passed Senate Joint Resolution 17 commemorating the life and public service of Senator Grobschmidt. During this bill's reading, many of our colleagues spoke highly of Senator Grobschmidt's character. He was well-respected and known for establishing genuine relationships with members on both sides of the aisle.

Senator Grobschmidt was a dedicated teacher and legislator. During his political career, Senator Grobschmidt served on the Education Committee, where he worked tirelessly on behalf of children across the state. He also championed legislation on school bus safety, created apprenticeship programs, and advocated for the formation of Lakeshore Park. Upon leaving the legislature, Senator Grobschmidt accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Wisconsin Legislature has designated more than 40 highways and bridges to commemorate groups and individuals. Naming this bridge in honor of the late Senator Grobschmidt recognizes his successful efforts to champion the formation of Lakeshore Park. I would like to thank my colleague, Senator Larson, for his work on this issue. Again, thank you to the committee for taking the time to hear this bill, and I urge your support of SB 99.



CHRIS LARSON

STATE SENATOR

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 99

Thank you Chairman Petrowski and committee members for taking the time today to hear Senate Bill 99. Your scheduling of this proposal today is deeply appreciated by the Grobschmidt family. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Senator Darling for her introduction of and support of Senate bill 99 and Senate Joint Resolution 17.

Senate Bill 99 is a bipartisan effort supported by local leaders and the community to honor a former member of the Assembly and Senate whose passing left strong friendships, wisdom, and enduring memories on both sides of the political aisle. The proposal directs the DNR to designate the bridge on the Hank Aaron State Trail across the Lakeshore State Park Inlet at the north end of Lakeshore State Park in the city of Milwaukee as the "Richard A. Grobschmidt Memorial Bridge."

As we all heard during the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 17 yesterday, Senator Grobschmidt was well known as a bridge builder during his service in the Legislature. He cared about all of his colleagues no matter the partisan affiliation and was eager to work to build consensus toward good policy. His work and service at the community and state level had a deep and enduring impact.

As Senator Darling and I worked with the Grobschmidt family on ideas for an appropriate and respectful way to memorialize Senator Grobschmidt, the Lakeshore State Park kept coming up. Senator Grobschmidt was a driving force and vision behind the creation of this state park. Designating the park bridge in memory of Senator Grobschmidt brings together his efforts to conserve this special parkland and his legacy of bipartisan bridge building.

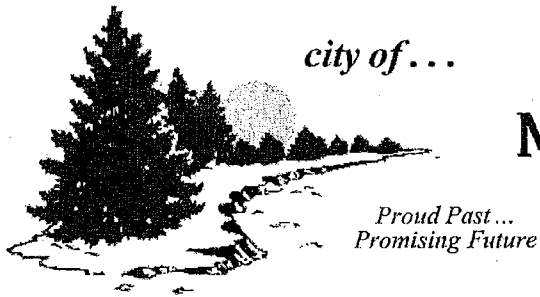
This bill will authorize DNR staff and local property managers to work with the Grobschmidt family to determine details of what the marker will look like, how it will best fit with the design of the bridge, projected creation and installation costs, and potential maintenance costs. As specified in the bill no state funds will be spent on the installation or maintenance of this memorial marker. I do not doubt that given Rick's deep friendships and family there will be strong interest in contributing to a memorial marker.

Chairman Petrowski, committee members, I want to again thank you for hearing this bill today. Today is Rick's birthday and bringing together legislators for a bipartisan endeavor is just the sort of present that he would have loved.

I also hope that you will vote for Senate Bill 99 when it is scheduled for executive action.

Again thank you.

WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 7882 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882
(608) 266-7505 • (800) 361-5487 • FAX: (608) 282-3547
SEN.LARSON@LEGIS.WI.GOV • SENATORCHRISLARSON.COM



South Milwaukee

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
(414) 768-8049
FAX (414) 768-8086

March 30, 2017

RE: Support of Senate Bill 99

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to voice my support for 2017 Senate Bill 99, to designate and mark the bridge in Lakeshore State Park the "Richard A. Grobschmidt Memorial Bridge" in honor of this great man.

Richard Grobschmidt was a lifelong resident of South Milwaukee and was a dedicated community servant, accomplished public official and fierce supporter of education.

Rick graduated from South Milwaukee High School in 1966. He returned to teach political science at the school before serving five terms in the state Assembly and parts of three terms in the state Senate, chairing both the Assembly and Senate education committees. Rick left the Senate in 2003 after he was appointed assistant state superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction. He retired from the DPI in 2010.

Sadly, Rick passed in 2016 after a battle with cancer.

In his time in the state legislature, Rick championed the creation of the Lakeshore State Park, and I can't think of a better honor for him and his family than to name this bridge after him.

I would like to thank the bill's co-sponsors for their support in honoring this great man, and, if you have not already, I ask you to consider joining as a co-sponsor and to vote for this bill. I speak on behalf of all the residents of South Milwaukee when I tell you how much we appreciate your efforts to recognize the contributions Rick made to all of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Erik Brooks, Mayor
City of South Milwaukee

EB/jp