

February 28, 1995
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State Representative DuWayne Johnsrud
State Capitol
323 North Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
Attn: Tom Liebe

Dear Representative Johnsrud:

I'm writing to comment on your proposal to repeal the law which prohibits the use of fluorescent orange NO TRESPASSING signs.

I feel that the color blaze orange, or fluorescent orange, should be reserved for the hunter. As a hunter safety instructor I feel that this is a safety issue. My concern is not that hunters will be mistaken for signs and be shot, but that some hunters may assume that a safe shot may be taken because beyond the target is a blaze orange sign, when in fact that sign is an orange clad hunter. During the 1994 gun deer season, I realized first hand how this could happen. While hunting on a wooded ridge in western Wisconsin, I observed some blaze orange color ahead of me through the woods and assumed that this color indicated another hunter. As I walked over to talk to that hunter, I discovered that the "hunter" was a fencepost painted fluorescent orange. The next day in the same area I saw what I thought was the same fencepost, but this time the fencepost turned out to be a hunter.

The way the law was implemented seems to have caused some problems. It may have been better to have phased it in over a period of time, but I feel that to change the law now would only add to the confusion.

As a member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress I feel a lot of these types of problems could be prevented if the legislature worked more closely with the WCC. Today with talk of town meetings and grassroots support, I would like to remind the Assembly DNR Committee that on the second Monday in April there is a DNR/WCC town meeting in every county seat in the state. Last year 8,716 Wisconsin citizens attended this spring hearing.

In summary, I feel that there are many other high visibility colors that can be used for NO TRESPASSING signs, and that the color blaze orange should mean people, not signs.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Jensen

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- REF 1.13.95

- HEARING 2.8.95