

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on
Agriculture and
Environmental
Resources
(SC-AER)

Sample:

- Record of Comm. Proceedings
- 97hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 97hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 97hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

- Appointments ... Appt
-
- Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule
-
- Committee Hearings ... CH
-
- Committee Reports ... CR
-
- Executive Sessions ... ES
-
- Hearing Records ... HR
- 97hr_sb0005
- Miscellaneous ... Misc
-
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP
-



Wisconsin Builders Association

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Gerard Deschane

TO: Senator Alice Clausing, Senator Kevin Shibilski, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environmental Resources Committee

FROM: Jerry Deschane,  Director of Governmental Affairs

DATE: January 21, 1997

RE: Senate Bill 5

On behalf of the 6,000 member companies of the Wisconsin Builders Association, we respectfully oppose Senate Bill 5, which would restore the Natural Resources Board's power to appoint the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.

We oppose this bill because we believe that the department, like all state agencies, needs to be directly accountable to elected officials, and therefore, to the people of Wisconsin. The previous system isolated the secretary from that direct accountability, and was a contributing factor to public dissatisfaction with the department.

That lack of accountability led four of Wisconsin's past governors, Democrat and Republican, to speak up in support of the change made during the last session of the Legislature.

It is difficult to cite an example of how this accountability has been detrimental to the environment. The department continues to be very aggressive on environmental matters, wetland regulation, shoreland zoning, forestry management, and the many other issues that it addresses each day. The secretary of the department continues his outspoken advocacy of land use reform.

We agree that the department needs to continue to reform. Minor permitting decisions continue to consume too much of the department's time and resources. The department's reorganization needs to be completed. This legislation, however, would not aid those needed reforms, and we cannot support it.

We thank you for taking the time to consider our viewpoint.

