

Committee Name:

**Assembly Committee – Rural Affairs and Forestry
(AC-RAF)**

Appointments

99hr_AC-RAF_Appt_pt00

Committee Hearings

99hr_AC-RAF_CH_pt00

Committee Reports

99hr_AC-RAF_CR_pt00

Clearinghouse Rules

99hr_AC-RAF_CRule_99-

Executive Session

99hr_AC-RAF_ES_pt00

Hearing Records

99hr_ab0000

99hr_sb0000

Misc.

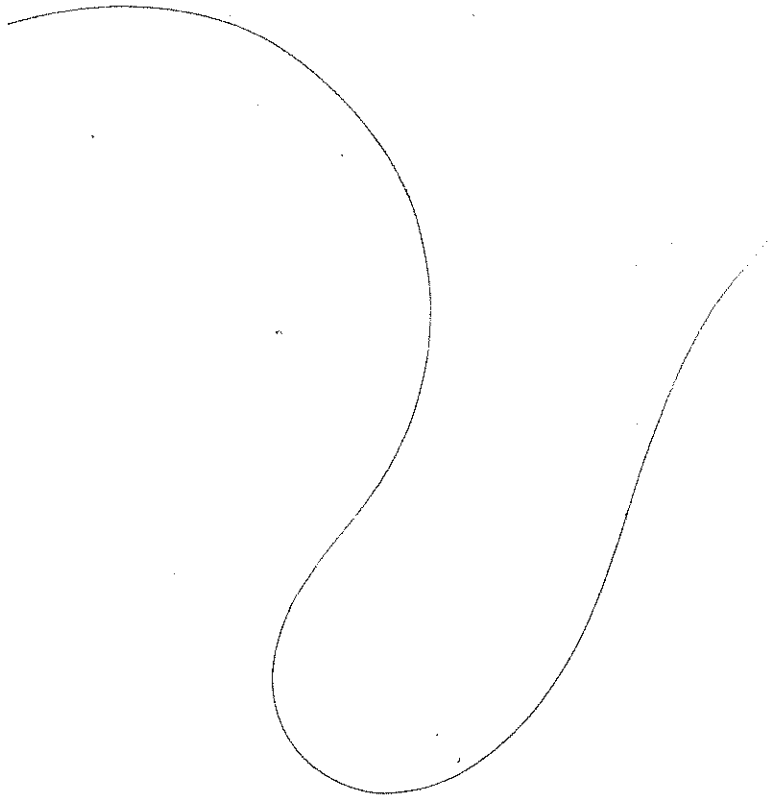
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Record of Committee Proceedings

99hr_AC-RAF_RCP_pt00

8-21-00

LAONA Forestry Mtg





LORRAINE M. SERATTI
36TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



March 19, 1999

**SERATTI PLEASED WITH
 FORESTRY EDUCATION GRANTS**

(MADISON) The Department of Commerce recently awarded nearly \$200,000 in grants to five organizations in Wisconsin for forestry education through a program created by State Representative Lorraine M. Seratti (R-Spread Eagle).

According to the Department of Commerce, one of the grant recipients was the Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. They were awarded \$68,244 to develop educational materials using media forms such as CD ROM, web pages, videos, and slide presentations. They will also develop ready-to-use teacher packets and hold teacher workshops.

Another grant winner from northeastern Wisconsin, Trees for Tomorrow, was awarded \$21,756 to provide practical, hands-on training to Wisconsin teachers through an intensive five-day workshop.

"Both programs approach forestry education from unique angles," Seratti said. "One will utilize computer technology to bring forestry education into the next millenium and the other will provide practical hands-on experience to make our teachers more informed about forestry education."

The remaining Forestry Education Grant winners were the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (Stevens Point), the Memorial Park Arboretum & Gardens (Appleton) and the Cooperative Educational Service Agency #12 (Ashland).

The educational grants were developed to teach Wisconsin's youth about forestry, which is an important industry to Wisconsin. "Timber and wood processing accounts for approximately 6 percent or roughly \$15 billion of Wisconsin's gross annual output," indicated Seratti. "Another 6 percent of the state's gross output comes from tourism reliant on Wisconsin forests."

If you would like to learn more about these forestry education programs, you can contact Rep. Seratti toll-free at 1-888-534-0036 for more information.

-30-



LORRAINE M. SERATTI
36TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



DATE: December 6, 1999

TO: Michael Dornbeck, Chief, U.S. Forest Service

FROM: State Representative Lorraine M. Seratti

SUBJECT: New regulations for the National Forest Management Act and the President's "Roadless Areas" Initiative

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments relative to new regulations for the National Forest Management Act and the President's "Roadless Areas" Initiative. As an elected official, I fully realize that you must consider a very broad spectrum of issues in relation to the establishment of plans for our national forests.

Over the last several months, hundreds of letters and postcards have been flowing into my office from constituents frustrated by the proposed management changes and the process in general. Changing the process now, in midstream, to incorporate 1) the Chequamegon-Nicolet Ten-Year Management Plan 2) the Clinton/Gore Administration's "Roadless Areas Initiative," and 3) new forest management planning regulations, is confusing, arbitrary, and unfair to citizens. A format in which United States Forest Service (USFS) facilitators lead citizen dialogue is not representative of true public input.

The first topic I wish to address is the Weeks Act of 1911, which authorized the Agriculture Secretary to purchase lands within the watersheds of navigable streams to enhance stream-flow, and the expanded authority granted by Act June, 7, 1924 to include in its scope, "lands necessary for the production of timber." While I realize that other acts of Congress have altered the management directives of the department, I want to emphasize the original intent of these acts. I believe it is important that officials charged with the responsibility of rewriting these management plans not lose sight of the significance of the original intent of these acts.

Over the last ten years (from 1987 to 1997) timber cut volume on the Nicolet has been reduced to less than half. As a result, counties and school districts dependent on these timber harvest revenues have experienced significant decreases in payments from timber sales forcing the state to increase local government and local school aids to avoid higher property taxes for landowners in affected counties. In Florence County timber employment income generated by fiscal year 1997 USFS timber harvests amounted to \$5,285,049 resulting in \$60,883 in 25% fund and PILT payments to local governments. For

Forest County, timber employment income generated by fiscal year 1997 USFS timber harvests amounted to \$21,383,601 resulting in \$205,775 in 25% fund and PILT payments to local governments.

Wood resources are used in every sector of our economy, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in Wisconsin. The national forests in our state alone provide approximately 30% of our states raw wood resources. For example, in 1997, the Forest Service timber sale program generated over \$100,059,999.00 of direct, indirect, and induced timber employment in Wisconsin.

Citizens are also very concerned about the lack of professional expertise of qualified foresters as a result of the recent personnel "buyouts" by the agency. To implement sound timber management policy, there needs to be accurate data to ensure the proper harvesting levels and management techniques are being applied. Trees are a crop that must be harvested and utilized for the benefit of all at the proper time. Many new concepts have been incorporated into these new proposed rules and initiatives, all of which appear to circumvent current law. Is this representative of "we the people?"

Also included are statements of intent to manage for "ecological sustainability" rather than multiple-use, sustained yield. The standard by which the forest service will determine whether or not an area is ecologically sustainable will be measured by a standard, which will compare current ecosystem integrity with the estimated integrity of pre-European settlement. To promote policies that encourage "old growth" pre-settlement conditions is unrealistic.

Planning rules also call for "environmental justice" for all citizens. What does this mean?

Additionally, there appears to be more emphasis on the concept of "ecosystem management" and use of a variety of "ologists" with very little emphasis on the socio-economic benefits that recreation and timber production bring to the communities surrounding our national forests. Proposed changes also attempt to mandate Congressional funding two to three years out to complete required monitoring and evaluation. One Congress cannot obligate funds for a future Congress.

Access is also a prime concern of residents throughout the national forest system. Many citizens are troubled with the closure of national forest roads and the high standards you require in the development and maintenance of road systems within the forest. The proposed initiative also creates a new classification of "un-roaded areas." The term "un-roaded areas" first appeared in the interim roadless area moratorium. Congress has never legally recognized such a term. Is this representative government? Designating new non-motorized and semi-primitive areas and increasing wilderness set-aside will only negatively impact the economic and recreational benefits the forests currently provide to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Also, as you develop your management plans, please take into consideration the number of elderly citizens who reside in the communities adjoining our forest lands. I hear very

frequently from senior citizens that areas they recreated in for years are no longer accessible as roads and trails continue to be bermed off and closed.

Timber production and recreation can be incorporated into a management plan that will enhance economic output, protect the natural resources and provide the proper habitat for a variety of plants and animals. Ecosystem management and biological diversity should not preclude other positive aspects of forest use, such as recreation by hikers, bikers, ATV enthusiasts, snowmobilers, hunters and other sportsmen. These resources belong to the people of the United States of America and they were intended to be used - not locked up or blocked off from the general public.

The emphasis placed on landscape planning should not diminish the property rights of individual landowners adjoining or interspersed between national forest lands. Private woodland owners adjoining or interspersed between national forest land should not have the health of their woodlands negatively impacted from insects and disease infestations caused from improper management of national forest lands. Improper management and decreased timber production will not only harm wildlife habitat, but additionally will lead to increased pressure on private woodlands which may not have professional foresters supervising timber harvests. Management plans should recognize the fundamental rights granted to citizens under the Fifth Amendment to our Constitution.

In conclusion, common sense and sound science should prevail in the decisions made involving timber management, wildlife habitat, road and trail development, and recreation policies. I strongly encourage your agency to resist the pressures applied through appeals and litigation brought on by extremist preservation groups, and instead work towards a multiple-use management plan that provides adequate access, maintains forest health and economic productivity and diversity, while generating funds for managing the resources well into the future.

If the USFS cannot accomplish these very important goals, then the citizens of Wisconsin should implore their Congressional delegation to begin the process of returning these public lands back to the people of Wisconsin.



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

One East Main Street, Suite 401; P.O. Box 2536; Madison, WI 53701-2536

Telephone: (608) 266-1304

Fax: (608) 266-3830

Email: leg.council@legis.state.wi.us

DATE: June 7, 2000

TO: REPRESENTATIVE JOHN AINSWORTH, CHAIRPERSON, ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON RURAL AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

FROM: Gordon A. Anderson, Senior Staff Attorney *GA*

SUBJECT: Potential Topics for a Public Hearing of the Committee on Rural Affairs and
Forestry

This memorandum briefly describes topics we recently discussed as potential items for a public hearing of the committee to be held during the summer.

1. Creation of the Division of Forestry

1999 Wisconsin Act 9 created in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the Division of Forestry. Specifically, Act 9 provided for a Division of Forestry, with one unclassified position for the division administrator. The position is funded from the Forestry Account General Operations Appropriation. The number of unclassified division administrators positions authorized in the DNR was increased from six to seven. [See SECS. 37h, 2361d and 9136 (11g) of Act 9.]

The committee could review the actions of the DNR to implement this legislation, including the appointment of the division administrator, the bureaus or sections that may have been created within the division and the appropriations and personnel shifts resulting from Act 9.

2. Forester Positions and Forest Management Plans

Act 9 provided for an additional \$161,300 in fiscal year 1999-00 and \$215,000 in fiscal year 2000-01 from the Forestry Account of the Conservation Fund for five forester positions.

Furthermore, Act 9 provided \$150,000 in each year from the Forestry Account to allow DNR to contract with private foresters to prepare management plans for the entry of land into Wisconsin's Managed Forest Land Program.

The committee could review how the increased number of foresters and the authorization for contracts with private foresters has affected the entry of additional lands into the Managed Forest Land Program.

3. Forest Aid Payments

Act 9 provided that funding received by the state from receipts on national forest lands would be distributed to school districts in accordance with a number of acres of national forest land within the district boundaries. These provisions were subsequently changed by 1999 Wisconsin Act 74, which repealed the provisions of Act 9 and provided that all moneys received from the U.S. government for allotments to counties containing national forest lands and designated for the benefit of public roads in those counties, would be distributed in proportion to the national forest acreage in each county as certified by the U.S. Forest Service.

Act 74 further provided that if a county receives national forest income; the income must be distributed to the towns in which the national forest lands are situated. Each town must receive a portion of the income, based on the ratio of the area of the national forest lands in the town to the area of the national forest lands in the entire county. Fifty percent of the amount received by any town must be expended by the town exclusively for the benefit of roads in the town.

Finally, Act 74 provided that no later than June 30, 2000, the Secretary of Natural Resources must distribute \$1,354,400 from the appropriation account under s. 20.370 (5) (bd), Stats., and \$451,400 from the appropriation account under s. 20.370 (9) (iq), Stats., to towns that were eligible to receive national forest income payments during the 1998-99 fiscal year. The secretary is required to distribute moneys to the towns according to the criteria required for the distribution of national forest income payments under the 1997 statutes.

The committee could review the effects of this legislation and the amounts that will be distributed under the provisions of Act 74.

4. Fire Danger

The committee has previously reviewed the issue of the involvement of Wisconsin fire departments in forest fire control with respect to state forests. The committee has discussed concerns regarding the amount of downed timber resulting from severe storms in 1999 and the contingency plans for meeting any large-scale forest fires occurring in those areas.

The committee could request an update from the DNR Division of Forestry on the level of fire risk in northern Wisconsin forests, funds available under Act 9 to meet that damage, forest fire suppression activities and fire department partnerships with the state to respond to forest fires.

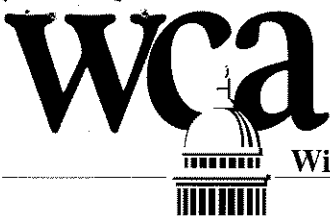
5. Federal Road Policies

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service is currently developing a plan that would ban road building and limit timber harvest on certain national forest lands in Wisconsin. The Forest Service is now in the process of obtaining public comments. The information round has been completed and the comment round is scheduled to be held in Crandon and Milwaukee on June 20 and in Park Falls on June 21. Comments can also be sent to the U.S.D.A. Forest Service.

The committee could review the status of the roadless plan for Wisconsin, the comments received and issues relating to these plans as raised by local units of government and citizens.

If you have any questions or I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

GAA:jal;ksm



MEMORANDUM

TO: The National Forest Service

FROM: Mark M. Rogacki, Executive Director

DATE: June 20, 2000

SUBJECT: Notice of Roadless Area Conservation Rulemaking

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns regarding the Roadless Area Conservation Rule proposal. On December 17, 1999 the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Counties Association took a position to vehemently oppose the latest Roadless Initiative by President Clinton and the National Forest Service.

WCA's membership has legal, procedural, philosophical and economic objections over the proposed rule.

LEGAL

As outlined in a preliminary staff report of the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health of the House of Representatives Committee on Resources, it is apparent that the National Forest Service and the Clinton Administration violated the due process rights of affected parties, as well as applicable statutes enacted by Congress to protect those rights, such as the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). This document outlines several conclusions that can be drawn from the review of documents and correspondence from the White House, the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service and various environmental groups:

- The information received indicates that all of the Administration's roadless area initiatives were developed in an environmental vacuum with virtually all input coming from a select groups of environmentalists.
- There was disregard for balance in the advice solicited by other interested parties and a lack of concern for any adverse consequences on the affected users of the forestlands in question.
- The constant reference throughout the documents to the need for "permanent protection" of roadless areas reveals a predetermined outcome of the rule making.
- There was a clear lack of appreciation of the unique role of Congress under the Constitution in shaping policy on public lands and the environment.

- An overall lack of concern over the dissension in the ranks from Regional Foresters on down and the problems stemming from the Washington Office requirement to hold hundreds of public meetings at the local forest level while not giving the local foresters sufficient information on the initiative, greatly restricting their ability to answer questions.
- An absence of any scientific documentation contrary to the preservation point of view.

As stated in the report, it appears that the White House, the Department of Agriculture, and the Forest Service violated the Federal Advisory Committee Act by relying on Advice from an Uncharted Federal Advisory Committee and violated the Administrative Procedure Act Prohibition on Ex Parte Communications during the Development of its Road Policy.

The WCA membership also contends that this initiative violates the intent of the Clark-McNary Act of 1924. The Clark-McNary Act created the National Forests in their current form with the priority of creating a sustainable source of timber. When the Chequamegon and Nicolet Forests were created in 1928, the forests of northern Wisconsin had been nearly clear-cut. For this reason, the U.S. Forest Service's Assistant Chief Forester said that "The purpose of the United States in buying these lands is to restore them to a condition of maximum forest productivity by intensive management, planting, fire protection, etc.; to make them sources of permanent timber supply and basis for permanent wood-using industries and communities."

During this time Wisconsin was unique in that it allowed the people in the affected counties to determine for themselves whether or not they would sell their own lands to the federal government. The affected county governments and the people that they represented agreed to sell those lands, but only because they believed that the federal government would uphold its promise that there would be a permanent supply of timber. The Wisconsin Counties Association believes that the Roadless Initiative violates that agreement.

PROCEDURAL

When the administration first announced its intent to establish a new level of protection for inventoried roadless areas, it was very difficult to outline concerns and give detailed comments due to the significant lack of information regarding the details of the proposal and the inadequate outreach effort. However, the true intent of the administration and the National Forest Service regarding the future management of National Forests has become much clearer, especially if all of the latest National Forest proposals are analyzed together.

Secretary Glickman stated that the new rules were more than just a change in policy, but rather a fundamental change in philosophy. It appears that in order to accomplish this comprehensive change the new regulations and restrictions on future uses of National Forests were divided into several separate rules rather than one clear and straightforward proposal. The Roadless Initiative itself would affect 46,000 acres of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and dictates how future management decisions will be outlined in Wisconsin's Forest Management Plan. However, the pervasiveness of possible regulations being proposed for National Forests under the Roadless Initiative is much clearer when considered in conjunction with the Transportation Policy proposal, and the Planning Regulations proposal.

For instance, the proposed rule for the National Forest System Road Management and Transportation System goes beyond the Roadless Initiative with the intent of decommissioning already existing roads. The new rules for Managing the National Forests states that the new focus is on sustainability, public participation, and improved use of science. However, under the proposal, each forest management plan developed by a Forest Supervisor must incorporate a regional guide developed by a Regional Forester. This guide is to be created with guidelines that are established and approved only by the Chief Forester, Mike Dombeck. In addition, it appears that the main emphasis of the new rule is science over public participation. The team that is to help develop these plans and regional guidelines is to consist of a combination of Forest Service staff, federal government personnel and other individuals with technical and professional expertise. Rather than give local units of government representation on the planning committee, the rule simply requires that a notice of the preparation of a land and management plan and schedule be given to those who may be impacted. A provision for consideration of such conflicts is not adequate. Local units of government deserve to have the opportunity to help shape the forest management plans that have significant impacts on their communities and constituents.

Finally, within the roadless rule itself, the Procedural Alternatives are supposed to be guidelines to be used by local forest managers when creating or revising a forest management plan to determine if the "roadless character" should be preserved in additional areas. However, given that the long term intent of the National Forest Service is to significantly restrict multiple use activities in National Forests, there is concern that local forest staff will be directed to use local forest management plans as a vehicle to further that end. It is stated within the impact statement itself, that "it is reasonable to assume that the proposed procedural requirements would reinforce the effects achieved by the proposed requirements to prohibit road construction and reconstruction and that the procedural requirements would apply to a greater area than inventoried roadless areas..."

ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

The Wisconsin Counties Association believes that the Roadless Initiative is counterproductive to the goal of protecting Wisconsin's National Forests. Some members of the public who consider themselves environmentalists believe that these proposals are the best way to preserve forest resources. However, many other members of the public who live and work with this resource on a daily basis, such as Wisconsin DNR, county foresters and elected officials, the timber industry and recreational industry do not agree. These groups have been working together to transform 500,000 acres of useless land into what is now 1.5 million acres of thriving and productive forestland. Wisconsin has established a long history of sustainable forestry that allows multiple uses so that this resource can flourish and provide ecological, economic and social benefits to all segments of society. This proposal effectively undercuts the local planning processes and jeopardizes the cooperative management of Wisconsin's National Forests.

In addition, permanently locking up significant portions of the National Forests will only perpetuate the problem of neglect that are occurring in National Forests throughout the country. Given that our national forests are experiencing the worst health crisis in their history with 65 million acres - one third of the system - at catastrophic risk of wildfire, insect infestation, and disease - perhaps the Forest Service should not wall off another 60 million acres and doom them to that same fate.

ECONOMIC

Like in many other states, Wisconsin county and school budgets depend upon federal forest payments. Unlike other local governments who can support community services through the collection of property taxes, counties adjacent to federal lands must rely on the revenues generated from the land's resources. The PILT payments and forest receipts that are given to counties are critical to the economic stability and maintenance of local infrastructure, facilities, and educational systems.

Due to recent shifts in the philosophy of how the federal government manages national forest lands, rural counties are witnessing a steady decline in revenues, mirroring the drop in federal forest receipts. Current policy decisions and practices that reduce incentives for active land management and local participation are eroding the basic tenants of the partnership established almost a century ago, sending rural forest economies like those in Wisconsin into a downward spiral.

Because of these new land management policies, the numbers and statistics used in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning the number of jobs lost, and the loss in revenues, and government payments are artificially low. Wisconsin has estimated significantly higher losses in jobs and federal payments and economic activity under the proposed rule.

Page 5
WCA Memorandum
June 20, 2000

Together, we must find a solution that will recognize the need for self-sufficient communities. Forest resources must be effectively managed in such an environmentally responsible manner that produces long term sustainable revenue to share with counties and schools as well as products for the nation. Only by empowering local communities and allowing the decision-making to take place on the local level - closest to the people - can the economic and social stability of rural counties be revitalized and restored.

WCA respectfully requests that the Administration and the National Forest Service give significant thought to the legal, procedural, environmental and economic implications of the Roadless Initiative and other National Forest Service Proposals before moving forward in the rule-making process.

July 17, 2000

USDA Forest Service
ATTN: Paul Strong
68 S. Stevens Street
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Dear Mr. Strong:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Assembly Rural Affairs and Forestry Committee hearing taking place in Laona on August 21, 2000. I really appreciate your cooperation in discussing federal road policies and the status of the roadless plan for Wisconsin. I have enclosed a copy of the hearing notice so you are aware of what other topics will be discussed. You may notice on the agenda that the committee will also be discussing forest aid payments. Is this also a topic for which you might be able to share information? Any assistance you could offer would be much appreciated.

For your information, the following persons will also be providing testimony before the committee:

Paul DeLong, Assistant Director
DNR Division of Forestry

Nadine Bailey, President
Timber Producers

Rosemary Mahoney
Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives

Eden Keljord
WFResmus Education Alliance

Thank you again for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any additional questions or concerns. See you next month!

Sincerely,

JOHN AINSWORTH
State Representative
6th Assembly District

JA/khb
Enclosure

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	8/15/00	# of pages	1
To	KRISTINA		From	DAN MEYER	
Co./Dept.			Co.		



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FORESTRY
STATE OF WISCONSIN

Reply to: 241 Shore Acres Drive
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494
715/423-7550
Fax: 715/423-7550

8/15/00

- Dan Meyer
Chairman
Wisconsin Rapids
- William "Butch" Johnson
Vice Chairman
Hayward
- John Ahl
Black River Falls
- Miles Benson
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- Sen. Roger M. Breske
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Bangor
- James Holperin
Eagle River
- Rachel Jordan
Dodgeville
- Tim Laatach
Wisconsin Rapids
- Nick Moncel
Eau Claire
- Cathy Nordine
Land O'Lakes
- Thomas Schmidt
Neenah
- Eugene Schmit
Tomahawk
- Rep. Lorraine Seratti
Spread Eagle
- Robert Skiera
Milwaukee

KRISTINA,

RICHARD CONNOR will be

glad to speak on behalf of the
Gov's Council on Forestry at
the hearing on 8/21 in Laona
Thanks call if you have
any question.

Dan Meyer

Assembly Committee Travel Approval Form

CHAIRPERSON'S NAME: REPRESENTATIVE JOHN AINSWORTH

ROOM #: 302 North - State Capitol PHONE: 266-3097

NAME OF COMMITTEE: RURAL AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

CITY AND DATE: (If holding more than one hearing outside of Madison, please list each of them.)

CITY: LAONA DATE: Monday, August 21, 2000

PURPOSE OF HEARING: (Please include Bill and LRB numbers.) FORESTRY

DNR change to the Division of Forestry, the need for foresters and
management plans, Federal road policies, Fire danger and protection,
Forestry Cooperatives, a status report on gypsy moths and forest
caterpillars, as well as any other forestry topics in need of exploration

Is a page requested to attend? YES NO
Is an overnight stay required? YES NO
Will a state car be needed? YES* NO (*If yes, contact Mary Ellis at 6-1108)

DATE OF THIS REQUEST: (Approval MUST be granted prior to trip) June 28, 2000

CHAIRPERSON'S SIGNATURE: *John Ainsworth*

Approved Disapproved

Chief Clerk Signature

Date

Assembly Committee Travel Approval Form

CHAIRPERSON'S NAME: REPRESENTATIVE JOHN AINSWORTH

ROOM #: 302 North - State Capitol PHONE: 266-3097

NAME OF COMMITTEE: RURAL AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

CITY AND DATE: (If holding more than one hearing outside of Madison, please list each of them.)

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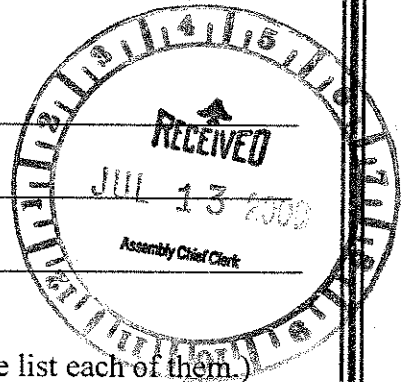
CHAIRPERSON'S SIGNATURE: *John Ainsworth*

Approved Disapproved
[Signature]
Shirley King

Chief Clerk Signature

Date

Assembly Committee Travel Approval Form



CHAIRPERSON'S NAME: REPRESENTATIVE JOHN AINSWORTH

ROOM #: 302 North - State Capitol PHONE: 266-3097

NAME OF COMMITTEE: RURAL AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

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Is a page requested to attend? YES NO

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Will a state car be needed? OK YES* NO (*If yes, contact Mary Ellis at 6-1108)

DATE OF THIS REQUEST: (Approval MUST be granted prior to trip) June 28, 2000

CHAIRPERSON'S SIGNATURE: John Ainsworth

Approved Disapproved
[Signature]
[Signature]

Chief Clerk Signature

Date

Boardman, Kristina

From: Dirk Van Duzee [dvanduzee@ez-net.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2000 9:10 PM
To: Richard H Huisman; Robert Kellogg; Storm Carroll
Cc: Sen.Breske; Rep.Ainsworth
Subject: 25%Gross Payments and PILT

This subject was discussed by Bob Lueckel, Deputy Forest Supervisor. Lueckel immediately stated that the 25% GP had to be used for schools or roads. He also stated that there were 11 counties and 65 townships involved. There was no mention of the thirty-two school districts serving approximately 25,000 young students. As the money received by the townships has to be used for schools or roads you know many if not all townships are in violation of the law. Some townships have no town taxes so you know they are using these monies to build town halls, purchase equipment and more.

Regarding the PILT payments, Lueckel stated that this portion of the payments came from the BLM. It amounts to only several hundred thousands dollars each year. What was neglected to be said is that the 25% GP payments to the majority of the towns limits the PILT payments to \$0.10/acre rather than the \$0.75 that could be received at 40% funding of the PILT program. Congress has established \$1.75 per acre as acceptable, but as usual with most Federal programs has only funded the program at 40% of actual.

Roger will be establishing a Working Group this week or next to start hammering out an agreement with the towns so both towns and schools end up with a win-win situation. We must get the Congress to fund the PILT program in whole. All the lands in Wisconsin's National Forests were deeded acreage's which is not true of the Western forests. Therefore, there is precedent to fund the Eastern forests different than the Western forests.

The school districts are getting the short end of the stick at this time. Townships can tax while the school districts have caps! Probably all of the thirty-two school districts have declining enrollments and accelerating equalized valuations. The escalating evaluation has been caused by out of district purchases of land and lake properties. Yet, the individuals and families living within the district find it difficult to purchase properties and pay the taxes with their depressed wages. It appears we are on a collision course with disaster unless something more equitable can be worked out quickly.

Dirk VanDuzee

August 29, 2000

Paul DeLong, Director
DNR – Bureau of Forestry
101 S. Webster
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Paul:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for appearing before the Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry on August 21, 2000 in Laona. I sincerely appreciate you making the drive from Madison to share the Department's perspective on various topics related to forestry. I feel that the committee meeting was a success, in that it provided several persons with an opportunity to share their thoughts regarding the important topic of forestry and forest management.

I remain committed to sharing with other legislators the importance of sustainable forestry, and the need to give this subject additional attention. Thank you again for your efforts. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

JOHN AINSWORTH
State Representative
6th Assembly District

JA/khb

August 29, 2000

Bob Lueckel
Paul Strong
USDA Forest Service
68 S. Stevens Street
Rhineland, WI 54501

Dear Mr. Lueckel and Mr. Strong:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for appearing before the Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry on August 21, 2000 in Laona. I sincerely appreciate you making the drive from Rhineland to share the USDA Forest Service's perspective on both the Roadless Initiative and Forest Aid Payments. I feel that the committee meeting was a success, in that it provided several persons with an opportunity to share their thoughts regarding the important topic of forestry and forest management.

I enjoyed meeting you, and participating in the discussion of these important topics. Thank you once again for your efforts.

Sincerely,

JOHN AINSWORTH
State Representative
6th Assembly District

JA/khb

August 29, 2000

Eden Koljord, Forestry Education Coordinator
Wisconsin Forest Resources Education Alliance
6343 Highway 8 West
Rhineland, WI 54501

Dear Ms. Koljord:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for appearing before the Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry on August 21, 2000 in Laona. I sincerely appreciate you making the drive from Rhineland to share testimony regarding your organization's efforts regarding forestry education. I feel that the committee meeting was a success, in that it provided several persons with an opportunity to share their thoughts regarding the important topic of forestry and forest management.

I enjoyed meeting you, and learning about the exciting advancements your organization has made. Thank you once again for your efforts. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

JOHN AINSWORTH
State Representative
6th Assembly District

JA/khb

August 29, 2000

Rosemary Mahoney, Executive Director
Cooperative Development Services
30 W. Mifflin Street – Suite 401
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Ms. Mahoney:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for appearing before the Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry on August 21, 2000 in Laona. I sincerely appreciate you making the drive from Madison to share testimony regarding the development of forestry cooperatives. I feel that the committee meeting was a success, in that it provided several persons with an opportunity to share their thoughts regarding the important topic of forestry and forest management.

Thank you once again for your efforts. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

JOHN AINSWORTH
State Representative
6th Assembly District

JA/khb