



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on Natural Resources and
Transportation...**

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**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Clearinghouse Rule 05-086

Relating to deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes.
Submitted by Department of Natural Resources.

December 12, 2005 Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation.

January 23, 2006 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (4) Senators Kedzie, Stepp, Wirsch and Breske.
Absent: (1) Senator Kapanke.

Appearances For

- Keith Warnke — WI Department of Natural Resources
- Steve Oestricher, Waldo — WI Conservation Congress
- Ed Harvey, Waldo — WI Conservation Congress
- Joe Caputo — WI Conservation Congress
- Jim Tiefenthaler, Pewaukee
- Robin Stafford, Rhinelander
- Dave Ladd — WI Conservation Congress
- George Meyer — WI Wildlife Federation
- Todd Zeuske, Verona — WI Bow Hunters Association
- Mark Toso, Roberts — WI Deer Hunters Association
- Richard Kirchmeyer, Prentice — WI Conservation Congress
- Larrie Hazen, Mount Hope
- Jim McCanley, Dodgeville — WI Conservation Congress
- Mark Noll, Alma — WI Conservation Congress
- Mike Brust, Wausau
- Keith Olsen, Harshaw
- Wally Trudeau, Amery — WI Bowhunters
- Mark Houslet, Oxford

Appearances Against

- Scott Makowski, Menomonee Falls — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Morris Nelson, Edgerton — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Dan Meyer — Representative, 34th Assembly District
- Orv Langohr — Lake States Resources
- Andrew Malecki, Jr. — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs

- Marvin Hablerland, Kaukauna — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Pat DeWitt, Two Rivers — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Ken Morgel, Black Creek — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Jim Greiner, Kaukauna
- Janice Tetzlaff, Mishicot — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Phil Knaup, Kiel — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Bob Christensen, Stoughton — Viking Snowdrifters - AWSC
- Jurgen Krisch — Viking Snowdrifters - AWSC
- Peter Serl
- Tom Schultz, Kewaunee
- Elroy Jaeger, Cleveland
- JoAnn Sippel, Campbellsport — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Harold Gauger, Johnson Creek
- Jeff Kohlmann, Mt. Calvary — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Jerry Schnelle, Cleveland — Cleveland Snowhawks
- Diane Lau, Reedsville — Manitowoc County Snow Alliance
- Ray Sippel, Campbellsport — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Randall Schopen, Johnson Creek
- Brian Hanson, Johnson Creek
- Ira Hartmann, Phillips — Skyline Motel/Whispering Pines Resort
- Harold Dettinger, Milton
- Gary Tupper, Lodi
- Tom Tomlanovich, Eagle River
- Elizabeth Dettinger, Milton
- Don Pertzborn, Dane
- Lyndon Luker, Ripon — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- William Pfaff, New Lisbon
- Thomas Chwala, Lake Mills
- Ronald Agner, Ripon
- Jerry Neumann, Dunbar — Dun-Good Snow
- Jerry Green
- Karen Green
- Norb Mullaney, Milwaukee
- Dan Clark, Oregon — Oregon Sno-Blazers
- Brenda Newman, Unity — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs

- Alan Schampre, Kaukauna
- Marlin Laidlaw, Marshfield
- Scott Meyer — WI Bearhunters Association
- Greg Kazmierski — WI Deer Hunters Coalition
- Eugene Blindauer, Plymouth
- Sam Landes, Dane — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Doug Johnson, Amery — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Wally Thill, Fredonia — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Beverly Dittmar, Eagle River
- Dave Rowley, Waukesha — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs

Appearances for Information Only

- Hilbert Radtke, Wausaukee

Registrations For

- Shawn Fischer, Madison
- Wayne Stietz, Argyle — WI Conservation Congress - District 9
- Lee Fahrney, Hollandale — LaFayette County Sportsman's Alliance
- Wright Allen, Omro — WI Bowhunters
- Ginger Brockman, Vesper
- Keith Trugum, Columbus
- Jack Hendricks, Janesville — WI Bowhunters
- Harvey Heath, Waunakee — WI Bowhunters
- George Henrich, Sr., Merrill — WI Bowhunters
- Dennis Hinterlether, Tomahawk — WBW
- Harlan Fox, Sun Prairie
- Jeff Fox, DeForest
- Burt Bushke, Mayville
- Mark Krueger, Watertown
- Jon Waltuscheit, Marshall
- Floyd Becraft, Sun Prairie
- Scott Strook, Mayville
- Tonya Kirchmeyer, Prentice
- Al Phelan, Madison
- Kevin Kreuziger, Horicon — WI Bowhunters
- Thomas Rand, Neenah — WI Bowhunters
- John Gavin, Sussex
- Warren DeSmidt, Cedarburg
- John Gavin, Jr., Cudahy
- Shirley Allen, Omro — WI Bowhunters

- Craig Hampton, Burnett — WI Bowhunters
- James Bauer, Lomira — WI Bowhunters
- Lloyd Lechner, Mayville — WI Bowhunters
- Richard Deihardt, Mayville — WI Bowhunters
- Russell Hampton, Horicon
- Lola Lechner, Mayville
- Bonnie Krueger, Lakewood
- Jerome Schwend, St. Cloud
- Duane Krueger, Lakewood
- Mike DeLapp, Madison — WI Bowhunters
- Kathryn Chandler, Mellen — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- William Chandler, Mellen — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Dave Peterson — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- John McSherry, Ridgeway — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs, Iowa County
- Judy Peterson, Plover
- Chris Radtke, Spring Green — Sauk County Representative
- Jim Kelly, Phillips — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Marc Schultz, Onalaska
- Michael Rogers — WI Conservation Congress
- Forrest Nutting, Milwaukee — WI Bowhunter
- Ronald Ferber, Wind Lake
- Steve Benson, Rhinelander
- Dan Brockman, Vesper
- Jennifer Walterscheit — Little John's Archery

Registrations Against

- Jerry Knapmiller, Eau Claire
- Phil Bourdon, Augusta
- Doug Sessler, Neshkoro
- Natalie Sessler, Neshkoro
- Bruce Moll, Jefferson — Sno-Stormers Snowmobile Club
- Lawrence Morris, Cottage Grove
- Mark Stephens, Brooklyn
- Holly Tomanovich, Eagle River
- Pat Mullarky — New Low Buck Vintage Rider
- Sherri Clark, Oregon — Oregon Sno-Blazers
- Patti Mullarky — New Low Buck Vintage Rider
- Charlie Woller, Johnson Creek
- Karen Chwala, Lake Mills
- Dee Langohe, Cleveland

- Dave Newman, Unity — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Dennis Boldt, Caledonia — Raymond Trailbreakers
- Mary Lou Neumann, Dunbar — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Wayne Baumann, Waterloo
- Cathy Hanson, Rio
- Frank Duseil, Phillips — Price County Snowmobile Association
- Peggy Williams, Green Bay
- Greg Reinhardt, Amberg
- Pam Butler, Lakewood
- Art Retzlaff, Amberg
- Jeff Schwaller, Amberg — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Gary Heinemann, Appleton — Ranger City Riders
- Alan Klecker, Marshall — Marshall Sno-Drifers
- Marvin Heller, Horicon
- Ray Ruter, Kaukauna
- James Chambers, Mauston
- Steven Smith, Fall River — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Kurt Butler, Lakewood — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Randy Krantz, Waunakee
- Loretta Docken, Verona — Speedway Snowmobile Club
- Bill Schumann — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Robert Deau, Amberg
- Wayne Romson, Maribel
- Adam Jaeger, Cleveland — Cleveland Snowhawks
- Larry Randall, Belleville
- Don Rawson, Neshkoro
- Jeff Draeger, Watertown
- Fred Linberg, Glenbeulah
- Ernest Lefeber, St. Cloud — Association of WI Snowmobile Clubs
- Karl Zajda, Mauston — Castle Rock River Runners
- Marvin Holliday

January 23, 2006

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (0) None.
 Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Kedzie that **Clearinghouse Rule 05-086** be recommended for modifications requested.

Ayes: (5) Senators Kedzie, Stepp, Kapanke, Wirch and
Breske.

Noes: (0) None.

MODIFICATIONS REQUESTED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5,
Noes 0

Dan Johnson
Committee Clerk

Vote Record
Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Date: 1-23-06

Moved by: STEPP

Seconded by: BRESKE

AB _____

SB _____

Clearinghouse Rule OS-056

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

Committee Member

Senator Neal Kedzie, Chair

Senator Cathy Stepp

Senator Dan Kapanke

Senator Roger Breske

Senator Robert Wirch

| <u>Aye</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Absent</u> | <u>Not Voting</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
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Totals: _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

January 23, 2006

MOTION

Moved, that the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation, pursuant to s. 227.19 (4) (b) 2., Stats., requests the Department of Natural Resources to consider modifications to Clearinghouse Rule 05-086, relating to deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes.

If the Department of Natural Resources does not agree to consider modifications to Clearinghouse Rule 05-086, in a letter addressed to the chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation, or fails to respond in writing to this request for modification, by 5:00 p.m., February 3, 2006, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation objects to Clearinghouse Rule 05-086 pursuant to s. 227.19 (4) (d) 6., Stats., on the grounds that the proposed rule is arbitrary and capricious, and imposes an undue hardship.

Vote Record

Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Date: 2/8/06

Moved by: BRESKE

Seconded by: WIRCH

AB _____

SB _____

Clearinghouse Rule 05-086

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:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passage | <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation | <input type="checkbox"/> Concurrence | <input type="checkbox"/> Indefinite Postponement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Tabling | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonconcurrence | |

Committee Member

Senator Neal Kedzie, Chair

| <u>Aye</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Absent</u> | <u>Not Voting</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Senator Cathy Stepp

Senator Dan Kapanke

Senator Roger Breske

Senator Robert Wirch

Totals: _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

February 8, 2006

MOTION

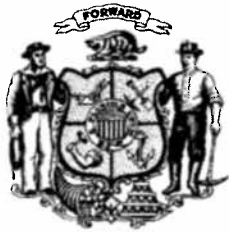
Moved, that the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation, pursuant to s. 227.19 (4) (b) 2., Stats., requests the Department of Natural Resources to consider modifications to Clearinghouse Rule 05-086, relating to deer hunting season and permit issuance regulation changes, that do the following:

- Delete the provisions in the rule on the 4-day December antlerless gun hunt and replace them with the following:
 - **North of Highway 8:** A 4-day antlerless gun hunt beginning the first Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday.
 - **South of Highway 8:** A 4-day antlerless gun hunt beginning the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday.

If the Department of Natural Resources does not agree to consider modifications to Clearinghouse Rule 05-086, in a letter addressed to the chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation, or fails to respond in writing to this request for modification, by 5:00 p.m., February 15, 2006, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation objects to Clearinghouse Rule 05-086 pursuant to s. 227.19 (4) (d) 6., Stats., on the grounds that the proposed rule is arbitrary and capricious, and imposes an undue hardship.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



October 19, 2005

Lake States Resource Alliance, Inc.
P.O. Box 1125
Rhinelander, WI 54562

Keith Warnke
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

RE: DECEMBER DEER HUNT 2006

The Board of Directors of Lake States Resource Alliance, Inc., (LSRA), at their October 19th, 2005 meeting is supplying the following comments that should become part of the permanent record regarding this subject.

1. The Board views this as a biological issue, which should be solved by biological measurers. It appears the solution being presented is an attempt to solve this problem through political and emotional means. As a result, the Board cannot support the proposal as it stands.
2. This proposal only serves to dissolve any spirit of cooperation and acceptance of the various recreationists. To solve a biological issue you need the user groups at the table to discuss acceptable solutions garner through consensus.
3. LSRA is an organization with a long history of seeking cooperation among various user groups. We believe that our lands are a common resource that needs to be shared by all interested groups. Solutions **MUST** be based on shared use rather than "allotting" either acreage or time to different groups.

We believe that the DNR needs to promote a cooperative solution.

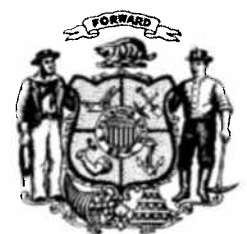
Sincerely,


ORV LANGOHR, PRESIDENT

LAKE STATES RESOURCE ALLIANCE, INC.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs, Inc.

5497 WATERFORD LANE, SUITE B, APPLETON, 54913
PHONE: (920) 734-5530 • FAX: (920) 734-5528
WEB: www.awsc.org • E-MAIL: awsc@awsc.org

December 6th, 2005

Gerald M. O'Brien
Member, Wisconsin DNR Board
HAND-DELIVERED

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

"In Wisconsin, there is widespread support for the Chicago Bears. The majority of those not supporting the Bears tend to be Green Bay Packer fans."

Imagine opening the sports page of your local newspaper and reading the quote written above. This hypothetical astonishment you'd experience is analogous to the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs' (AWSC) reaction to the Green Sheet relating to WM-29-05.

Below is a chart compiling the overall statistics stemming from the 10 public hearings relating to WM-29-05:

| Registered Support | Registered Opposition | Letters In Support | Letters in Opposition |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 100 | 197 | 9 | 96 |

How these figures above translate into the "widespread support" indicated in the WM-29-05 Green Sheet defies logic.

Compounding the AWSC's astonishment is the fact that October T-Zone hunts over the past four years resulted in **15.4% of the overall antlerless harvest**, while December T-Zone hunts over the same time period resulted in **4% of the overall antlerless harvest**. By these numbers, restricting the area above Highway 8 (where only 6 of the 30-plus units were open for a necessary T-Zone in 2005) from a December hunt would affect **less than 1% of the harvest**. Yet, despite these overwhelming numbers, the DNR is moving toward a **SECOND** statewide December antlerless hunt along with the **SUSPENSION** of the effective and popular October antlerless hunt.

Contrary to past public statements from the Conservation Congress, the AWSC is once again facing the prospect of a second December antlerless hunt above Highway 8. While representatives of the Congress may state that its support for WM-29-05, including a hunt above Highway 8, arises from votes (namely, on Question 44) taken during the Spring, 2005 meetings, one must understand that Question 44 addressed six items and forced the voter to register a "yes" or "no" vote for the entire question though they may support or oppose only a portion of the Question. This vote was not democracy in action, and it does not afford the Congress the ability to ignore its past commitments and, at present, advocate a hunt above Highway 8.

United We Trail – Divided We Fail

While the Department of Natural Resources is statutorily compelled to manage our state's deer herd, WM-29-05 contradicts the assumption that the DNR is taking into account the empirical evidence and is choosing the most logical methods of deer management. Rather, WM-29-05 appears to cater to a small interest group taking advantage of an opportunity to hunt on its own terms.

The AWSC is on record (see attached memo dated 9/30/05) in opposition to WM-29-05's providing a second December hunt above Highway 8, and this opposition has not wavered. However, to this point, our association of clubs has exerted a minimum public effort against the proposal, focusing instead on negotiations among key individuals which the AWSC had hoped would prove beneficial.

Those negotiations have failed, and the evidence of this failure is that the Department and your Board are pressing forward with WM-29-05. Despite the public input of businesses fearing lost revenue, in spite of the opposition from a prominent Northern Wisconsin chamber of commerce, and regardless of a resolution of opposition forwarded by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, WM-29-05 is still progressing.

Essentially, there appears to be insufficient respect for the knowledgeable snowmobilers who actually maintain and ride the trails of our state, the same riders who work with land owners to secure property access and submit records of their trail grooming activities to a state entity. Time and again, the DNR's response to our assertions, as published in WM-29-05 is that "there is no evidence" supporting our knowledge of the sport and of the outdoors, knowledge which arises from decades of experience.

The numbers found in the "Summary of Public Hearing Attendance and General Support or Opposition" chart should be sufficiently convincing that WM-29-05 is seriously flawed and lacks numerical support. The lack of appreciation for our knowledge can be found in the "Response to Public Comments" section once you consider our rebuttals.

For example, consider the Department response claiming "*there is no evidence that these hunts or any other type of hunting that occurs in December affect access to private land for snowmobile trails.*" The AWSC recognizes that if ONLY ONE landowner along a stretch of trail refuses access until after any deer season, the trail is in effect, closed.

The 161 individuals who publicly voiced their opposition to a December hunt north of Highway 8 recognize the fact that snowmobiling land access would be hindered by one landowner's refusal. It's possible that the 4 individuals who publicly support a December hunt did not know this fact.

As to the Department response "*there is no evidence that gates or trails being closed on public land is currently a problem,*" we turn your attention to the case of Vilas County. This year, Vilas County representatives indicated State Forest gates would not be open to snowmobilers until after the muzzleloader season. Vilas County snowmobile clubs were

forced to keep the trails closed until the muzzleloader season had passed. This is not a solitary occurrence -- during past December gun hunts, snowmobilers were not given access to state land simply because officials would not open the gates.

Please read the Department response claiming "*there is no evidence that any of the current December deer hunting opportunities...delays the start of snowmobile season...Snowmobiling begins when adequate snow falls and the ground below is frozen. We do not believe that a December gun deer hunt or any other type of hunting will impact the start of the snowmobiling season.*" Above Highway 8, the segment of the state which the AWSC strongly believes should not be included in a second December deer hunt, snowfall in December can be significant.

Over the last 5 years, Vilas County recorded 828 hours of grooming prior to December 15th. At roughly 6 miles/hour of grooming speed, that equates to nearly 5000 miles of trails groomed before December 15th. Over the last 5 years, Iron County groomed 664 total hours prior to December 15th, totaling nearly 4000 miles.

Also attached to this letter are past DNR Outdoor Reports which detail significant, lasting snowfall in areas north of Highway 8. As you read this letter on December 7th, up to 8 inches of snow exists in Florence County, and up to 14 inches of snow is on the ground in the Hurley area.

Clearly, the AWSC maintains that a second December antlerless hunt above Highway 8 is poor policy on many grounds. The notion that the DNR would move away from a popular, successful October hunt and toward a supplemental December hunt in the face of overwhelming opposition from knowledgeable snowmobilers, from business groups and from government entities is nearly impossible to fathom. If it receives the Board's endorsement, it will receive the vigorous, concerted opposition our 28,000 members are prepared to undertake.

Sincerely,

Morris Nelson
AWSC Legislative Committee Chair

Cc: Members of the Wisconsin Legislature
DNR Secretary Scott Hassett
Governor Jim Doyle

ATTACHMENTS: 9/30/05 Memo to DNR Board Members
DNR Outdoor Reports, 2000-2004
10/31/05 River Road Riders Letter



Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs, Inc.

5497 WATERFORD LANE, SUITE B, APPLETON, 54913

PHONE: (920) 734-5530 • FAX: (920) 734-5528

WEB: www.awsc.org • E-MAIL: awsc@awsc.org

MEMORANDUM

COPY

TO: DNR Board Members
Secretary Scott Hassett

FROM: Scott Makowski, AWSC President

DATE: September 30, 2005

RE: Opposition to WM-29-05 Provision

This is simply to inform you that the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs opposes DNR Proposed Rule WM-29-05 (specifically the 4-day December antlerless deer hunt north of Highway 8 provision), and plans to have AWSC members speak against the proposal during the upcoming Board hearings on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: Ron Kuehn
Steven Oestreicher
Keith Warnke

PAST WISCONSIN DNR OUTDOOR REPORTS

2004

Wisconsin Outdoor Report From November 30, 2004

Portions of far northern Wisconsin received the first substantial snowfall of the year last weekend. Almost a foot of snow was reported in the Hurley area of Iron County, while to the west, just half an inch was reported at the Brule River State Forest in Douglas County. Snow amounts dropped off quickly to the south, with less than 6 inches reported in the Rhinelander and Minocqua areas, and less than an inch reported at Wausau.

The arrival of snow has brought some inquiries about when snowmobile and ski trails open. Snowmobile trail maintenance is administered at the county level, with local snowmobile clubs usually making the final determination on when trails should be opened or closed.

Wisconsin Outdoor Report From December 7, 2004

There was still from 6 to 10 inches of snow on the ground in far northern Wisconsin as of early this week, despite some warm weekend temperatures and light rain. Snowmobile trails were open in the Eagle River area of Vilas County and in the Hurley area of Iron County. The trails that are open received heavy use over the weekend and conditions have deteriorated some. The first snowmobile event of the winter, the Red Light Snowmobile Rally, is scheduled to be held this weekend in Hurley. Only the Brule River State Forest has reported to rolled their cross-country ski trails, but they were not able to set tracks and conditions were very soft with the warm weather. Several private ski facilities in Vilas and Oneida counties have opened and are reporting fair to good conditions.

2003

Wisconsin Outdoor Report From November 25, 2003

Northern Wisconsin received some good snow over the weekend, ranging from 5 inches at Interstate Park in Polk County to 14 inches at the Brule River State Forest in Douglas County. Some of those state parks and trails that received snow have begun grooming trails for cross-country skiing, but in general, trails will not open until there is adequate snow for skiing, and trails on property where hunting is allowed will not open until Dec.

Brule River State Forest - The Brule River State Forest received 14 inches of snow last weekend. The Afterhours Ski Trail has been packed and groomed. The trail will open Dec. 1, after deer season closes.

Interstate Park - The park received 5 inches of snow on Nov. 23.

Wisconsin Outdoor Report From December 2, 2003

Brule River State Forest - Last November, the Brule Weather Station measured 27 inches of snow equaling 2.92 inches of melted precipitation. As of Dec. 1 there was 7 inches of snow on the ground.

2002

Wisconsin Outdoor Report From November 26, 2002

The only areas of the state with snow as of this past weekend were far northern Wisconsin, where Hurley reported up to 8 inches on the ground and southeastern Wisconsin where parts of Racine and Walworth counties received up to 5 inches of snow, but that had mostly melted.

Wisconsin Outdoor Report From December 3, 2002

The decisions on when snowmobile trails open are made on a county by county basis, so people should call ahead to their destinations to check on trail conditions. Some northern border counties such as Iron and Vilas counties report trails are officially open, but that there is just barely enough snow in most areas to begin grooming and that trails are in marginal riding condition at this time. Grooming has not begun yet on state park or forest cross-country ski trails, and will not begin until at least the muzzleloader deer hunting season concludes next Wednesday, and will then depend on whether there is enough snow for the grooming equipment.

2001

Wisconsin Outdoor Report From November 27, 2001

Flambeau River State Forest - About 8 inches of new snow fell on Monday and early Tuesday with more predicted for Tuesday. If snow remains significant, ski trails could open Dec. 1. Please call ahead for conditions.

Wisconsin Outdoor Report From December 4, 2001

Up to 18 inches of snow fell in far northeastern Wisconsin late last week, with lesser amounts falling in north central and northeastern parts of the state. Some counties did open snowmobile trails, and some parks and forests opened cross-country ski trails. However, the snow was wet and heavy and did not lend itself to grooming for either activity. Most areas that received snow are now reporting that much if not all has melted and trails are closed or in poor condition. Additional snowfall and cooler temperatures are needed before conditions will improve for either skiers or snowmobilers.

Many snowmobilers did get out to enjoy the early snow, but state snowmobile safety officials warn that snowmobilers need to exercise even greater caution during the early season when there is not sufficient snow to cover as rocks, roots and other such hazards.

2000

Wisconsin Outdoor Report From November 28, 2000

The far north received eight to 14 inches of snow over the past week or so and the Afterhours cross-country ski trail at the Brule River State Forest was rolled last week but not groomed.

Wisconsin Outdoor Report From November 28, 2000

Brule River State Forest - As of Nov. 29, the Afterhours Ski Trail on the Brule River State Forest was packed but not groomed. There were scattered bare spots. It was snowing lightly and several inches were anticipated over the next two days.

Snowmobiling trails in Florence County are not open. People have been asking about cross-country skiing, however county trails have not been groomed yet. There was about eight inches of snow in some places in the area, but the warm weather has reduced it somewhat. The ground is still all snow covered.

River Road Riders
Snowmobile Club Inc.
N9458 Lake Mary Rd
Wausaukee, WI 54177

October 31, 2005

Morris Nelson
AWSC Legislative Chairman

As per our discussion, the following are examples of where our Club, River Road Riders of Marinette County, has to abide by conditions imposed by our landowners in order to cross their property with our trail system.

1. Town of Lake, T32N-R21E, Sec. 20. Landowner will not allow us to brush, sign or open the trail from the start of bow season to the end of gun deer season.
2. Town of Wagner, T33N-R22E, Sec. 13. Our Club cannot cross this land to sign or brush until the owner unlocks the gates. Our Club president calls the landowner every weekend in December to find out when the gates will be open and if they have quit hunting. This property is in the middle of the trail system.
3. Town of Lake, T32N-R21E, Sec. 32. Landowner will not allow any brushing, signing, or repairs done on their property until after deer season. This trail runs from Lake Noquebay to Marinette.
4. Town of Porterfield, T32N-R22E, Sec. 28. Landowner will not allow any brushing, signing, or work on trail until after deer season and all signs have to be removed by the time the snow melts.
5. Town of Porterfield, T32N-R22E, Sec. 28. Landowner will not allow gates open or work done until after deer season. Items 4 and 5 are on an old railroad right of way.
6. Town of Porterfield, T31N-R22-23E, Sec. 17. Landowner does not allow trail to be used until after deer season.

Our trail map also asks snowmobilers to stay off the trails until January 1 and to respect the landowner's requests. We have lost sections of trail because of deer season.

This is only an example of our Club problems, and I know the other 7 clubs in our County have similar restrictions placed on them.

Thank you,

Andy Malecki Jr.

Andy Malecki, Jr.
River Road Riders, Treasurer
AWSC Director, Marinette County



**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Executive Council Advisory Questions**

Question 44: Deer Season Framework

Deer hunting in Wisconsin is more than just killing deer. The deer hunting heritage and tradition have very deep roots within our society. Many Wisconsin hunters rate the deer season and the ability to hunt with family and friends as their most important social event of the year.

DNR imposed changes to the deer seasons over the last several years have negatively impacted many hunting traditions. T-Zones and especially Earn-A-Buck seasons have alienated hunters in almost every part of the state. The 2004 deer season is either an example of an overestimated deer herd or an underestimation of hunter response to further restrictions or maybe both.

In the CWD deer management units the departments stated goal is to reduce the deer population. In these units the department forces the hunter to kill an antler-less deer before killing a buck. The research shows that bucks are more likely to spread CWD but buck harvest is restricted. This is counterproductive to eradicating CWD and reducing the deer herd. Hunters should be encouraged to shoot any deer within the CWD units.

The Executive Council of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress believes the DNR would receive more hunter support by eliminating T-Zone and Earn-A-Buck seasons and establishing all of the following:

1. An either sex bow season with free antler-less permit(s) that could be used in any unit with an antler-less quota.
2. Elimination of the October gun hunt.
3. A 9-day general deer season (hunters choice of weapon) starting the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Free antler-less permit(s) that could be used in any unit with an antler-less quota.
4. Retain the current muzzleloader season with the same tagging options as the general season.
5. Establish a statewide antler-less 4-day season in the 2nd week of December for all units with an antler-less quota.
6. Create an either-sex season for all deer hunting in the CWD Zone.

> Do you support the above position of the Executive Council?

44. YES _____ NO _____

Question 45: Rifle Use for Deer Hunting Lafayette County

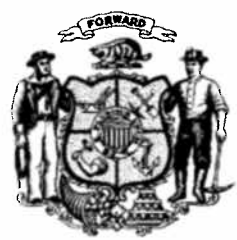
Unit 75D, which consists of mostly Lafayette County, has always been designated as a shotgun only area for deer hunting. With a part of this unit now being designated as a CWD Intensive Harvest Zone which will include opening up that part for deer rifle, we feel this whole unit should be designated a deer rifle area for deer hunting. Lafayette County has less density for population than compared to Dane County and the CWD eradication zone in Dane County was changed from shotgun only for deer hunting to allowing deer rifles two seasons ago. In the past 2 deer hunting seasons, there were no reported accidents with deer rifles in Dane County.

> Should the DNR take action to allow deer hunting with rifles in Lafayette County?

45. YES _____ NO _____



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



PRESS RELEASE

Wisconsin Deer Hunters Association

January 2, 2006



Snowmobile Association Wrong to Oppose Deer Hunting

The DNR's 06-07 deer season proposal that has received widespread support among hunting groups including the Wisconsin Deer Hunters Association (WDHA), Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is being attacked by the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC). The 2-year trial program would simplify regulations and the season framework with the traditional 9-day season followed by a 7-day muzzleloader season and following that, a statewide 4-day antlerless only season ending no later than December 14. The AWSC is against this proposal because they believe the 4-day antlerless season might interfere with access to private lands although there is no reason or evidence to suggest it will. "The level of support for this proposal is unheard of in the deer hunting community" says WDHA president Mark Toso. "We worked long and hard to come up with a compromise proposal to test some ideas that will hopefully help reduce the deer population and the need for T-zones and earn a buck regulations. To have the snowmobile clubs step in an try to derail this proposal without any evidence is absurd" he continues.

The Michigan Snowmobile Association reports no trail closure or conflicts with their 14 day antlerless deer season that typically runs late December into January. This is despite that fact that Michigan relies on more private land for snowmobile trail access than we do. "There is no reason to think that the situation will be any different in Wisconsin," says Toso.

The additional deer hunting opportunity provided by the proposal will bring an added economic boost to northern Wisconsin during a period of time when there is rarely enough snow for snowmobiling. "In fact, ask the AWSC how many counties opened their trails during the time the proposed late antlerless season would have been held this year? Or even the for the last 10 years?" says Toso.

This widely supported 2-year proposal should be given a chance to see if it can provide an adequate deer harvest. During this period any conflicts that may arise during the December 4 day antlerless season can be closely monitored. "If there's any conflict we can make adjustments, but we cannot just assume there will be any without any concrete facts. After all there hasn't been any in other parts of the state with the December hunt, even in years with enough snow" continues Toso.

The WDHA believes that the 4-day December antlerless hunt is one tool that might allow hunter access to harvest antlerless deer on some private lands. It is these lands, after all, that cause management units to be over population goals and results in controversial regulations like the October T-zones and earn a buck. "Thus the very reason we hope this proposal will work is that private landowners will be more willing to open their lands, not close them," says Toso. "The AWSC insists that they set the deer season framework, and that hunters and the DNR have no say when we can hunt deer. Even though the snowmobile clubs suggest there maybe trail access issues under this proposal, if they continue to oppose deer hunting and insist on telling landowners when they can and cannot hunt I guarantee there will be trail closures".

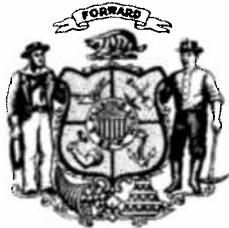
The WDHA is a statewide group of conservation minded deer enthusiasts whose mission is to promote scientific and ecological based deer management in Wisconsin. Our philosophy is do what's best for the deer herd, as we believe that is ultimately what's best for the deer hunter.

For more information contact:

Wisconsin Deer Hunters Association
P.O. Box 255
Roberts WI 54023
Phone: 715-781-4887
Email: WDHA@wideerhunters.org
Web: <http://www.wideerhunters.org>



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State of Wisconsin \ SNOWMOBILE RECREATION COUNCIL

January 4, 2006

Honorable Neal Kedzie
Member of Senate
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation
Room 313 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Kedzie and Committee Members:

At the December 9, 2005 meeting of the Governor's Snowmobile Recreational Council, the proposed extension of the gun Deer T-zone into December above highway 8 was vigorously discussed. The Council's conclusion is that this is not a north-south issue. Much of the Wisconsin landscape is agricultural land in row crop production. Many times these crops are not harvested until mid-November or later followed by fall tillage and fertilization. Snowmobile clubs, who realize they are guests on the owner's lands, do not wish to interfere with these operations until they are complete. With the traditional deer gun season also intruding on this timeline where club members also do not undertake signing or brushing activities out of courtesy, the window of opportunity to undertake the monumental task of establishing and signing the statewide trail system of interconnecting trail is fairly narrow.

If the gun T-zone is expanded to the northern portion of the state, the window of opportunity will continue to diminish for northern snowmobile clubs and associations. The continual setback of time to undertake these trail installing activities will force the clubs into dealing with frozen ground conditions which makes signing and grading activities nearly impossible.

The continual expansion of hunting opportunities is becoming a significant issue in gaining access to private lands for snowmobiling. Landowners are becoming more accustomed to expanding hunting opportunities and restricting access for snowmobile related activities during these expanded seasons. Similarly, access for snowmobile activities on state lands continues to erode with the expansion of season dates.

Along with the erosion of time for pre-season activities comes the loss of opportunity for riding. And with this loss comes the loss of tourism impact for a period approaching a month. The early statewide snowfall and consequent opening of many trails during December this year highlighted the economic impact of early access both south and north.

For these reason the snowmobile recreation council passed a motion to oppose not simply the expansion of the gun T-zone December season north of highway 8, but to oppose the December gun T-zone season on a statewide basis.

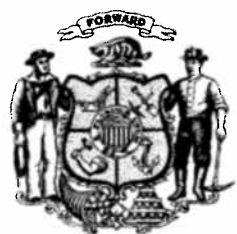
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Cerny".

Mike Cerny, Chair
Governor's Snowmobile Recreation Council



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Sen Neil Hedgie chair
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison WI 53707

1/9/06

Dear Committee Member:

I am a hunter and snowmobiler, we are about to have a war between gun hunters and bow hunters if this DNR rule change continues.

We are taking away a hunt in October when families can hunt together, when school is out and a lot of deer are taken. And, changing it to December when students would have to either not hunt, miss school and fewer deer are harvested. All because bow hunters don't want gun hunters in the woods during the rut.

Snowmobilers would not start until January 9th, it is a loss of Tourism business and vacations for families the entire Christmas and New Years holidays. Plus loosing over a month of the snowmobile season which starts December 1st by State law. Remember, one landowner can cut off his land to allow hunting can effect the entire snowmobile trail system.

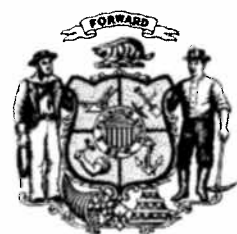
HOW MANY TIMES DO WE NEED TO REVISIT THIS ISSUE?

Sincerely,


Orville Langohr

P.S. Please also support & Pass AB840
in Senate

14230 PIGEON RIVER RD.
CLEVELAND, WI 53018



Wisconsin Bowhunters Association

William Friede Complex • 17 E. Third Street
PO Box 240 • Clintonville, WI 54929 • (715) 823-4670 • Fax (715) 823-1385
wbh@frontiernet.net • www.wbhassoc.com

January 13, 2006

Senator Neal Kedzie
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Kedzie:

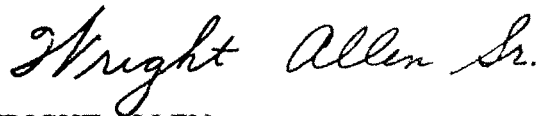
Wisconsin Bowhunters Association represents over 8,000 bowhunters throughout the State of Wisconsin.

WBH supports in its entirety the deer season proposal being forwarded by the Natural Resources Board. This proposal promotes sound deer management, and **was agreed** upon by a group of stakeholders, including DNR wildlife managers, outdoors people, foresters, and tribal wildlife managers. This proposal is widely accepted by hunters, (the group it affects directly) and passed with a solid 2:1 margin at the Conservation Congress spring hearings. This proposal offers great hunting opportunities and will help control the deer herd in Wisconsin.

This proposal should be passed by your committee without amendments or changes.

Sincerely,

WISCONSIN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

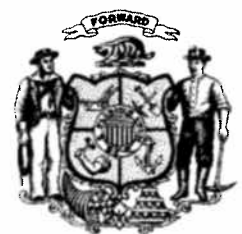


WRIGHT ALLEN
PRESIDENT

WA/kms



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



GREG BALCEREK
1789 CARROLL CT.
SOUTH MILWAUKEE WI. 53172-1074

17 JAN 06

DEAR SENATOR KEDZIE:

ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF A LETTER THAT I
HAVE SENT TO THE WISCONSIN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION
SHOWING MY OPPOSITION TO ANY T-ZONE HUNTS IN
WISCONSIN. ESPECIALLY IF IT SHORTENS ANY AMOUNT
OF SNOWMOBILE RIDING IN WISCONSIN.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

SINCERLY

Greg Balcerk

GREG BALCEREK
1769 CARROLL CT.
SOUTH MILWAUKEE WI. 53172-1074
32521

gear@militiserv.net

17 JAN 2006

DEAR WISCONSIN BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION:

ON 17 JAN 06 I RECEIVED THE BOWHUNTER ALERT FLYER IN THE MAIL. I URGENTLY READ IT WITH GREAT CONCERN. IT STATES WBH AND MANY OTHERS OPINIONS CONCERNING THE SPECIAL T-ZONE HUNTS. AS A BOWHUNTER AND FIREARMS HUNTER, I TOO STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE T-ZONE HUNTS. AND I FEEL YOUR OPPOSITION TO THIS MATTER.

I ALSO AM A SNOWMOBILER, I CANNOT SUPPORT YOUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER. AS A SNOWMOBILER I HAVE NOTICED FOR THE PAST 12-15 YEARS, THAT OUR SEASON HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY SHORTENED BY MOTHER NATURE DUE TO LACK OF SUFFICIENT SNOW FALL AS A SNOWMOBILER WE HAVE TO RIDE WHEN WE CAN, BECAUSE MAYBE TOMORROW WE WON'T BE ABLE TO. OUR SEASON IS SHORT ENOUGH, JUST ASK THE SNOWMOBILERS WHO ARE TRADING IN THEIR SLEDS FOR ATVS. I LOVE BOWHUNTING, BUT I ALSO DON'T WANT ANY LEGISLATION TO IMPOSE ON ONE OF MY OTHER PASSIONS. AS FAR AS THE DEER POPULATION GOES, WHERE ARE THE DEER? I AND OTHER HUNTERS SEEM TO SEE LESS EACH SEASON, YES I USUALLY FILL MY TAG, BUT I DON'T SEE MANY DEER ANYMORE. IN MY OPINION, I DON'T THINK THE DNR KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT WHEN IT COMES TO DEER

POPULATION IN WISCONSIN. I'M IN THE WOODS AS
MUCH AS I CAN, WEATHER IT BE HUNTING, CAMPING,
SNOWMOBILING OR JEEPING. I JUST DON'T SEE A LOT
OF DEER. AS A MEMBER OF WISCONSIN BOW HUNTERS
I'M SORRY TO SAY I CAN'T TAKE A STAND ON
YOUR SIDE ON THIS MATTER.

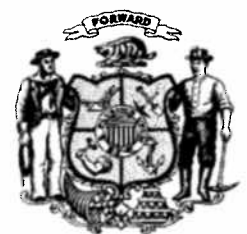
SINCERLY

Craig Balcerch

SOUTH MILWAUKEE WI.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Gerry L. Timler
218 Rainbow Ln.
Wausau, WI 54401-7741

Jan. 17, 2006

Dear Senator Neal Kedzie,

We urge you to work to eliminate the T-zone season in October. The snowmobile Clubs do not want the December season, but as a previous snowmobiler family, we don't understand their opposition.

It is very rare that there is enough snow the first part of December. Secondly, there isn't a safety issue. They can wear Blaze Orange - as Bowhunters must during any gun season. They are also only supposed to be on marked, snowmobile trails, operating in a safe manner.

Please support the December T-zone season as per the DNR proposal.

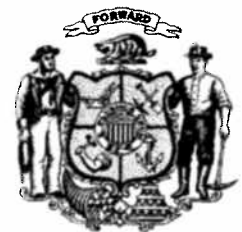
Thanks -

Sincerely,
Gerry Timler

P.S. I don't think there is a Hunter alive, that thinks a Deer sounds like a snowmobile!



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Jan 17, 2006

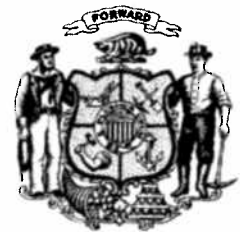
Sen. Kedzie,

Please support rule 05-086. This rule is backed by the conservation congress, DNR, DNR Board and numerous outdoor groups. That by itself is rare. It has taken a lot of work to get this rule to this stage. Contrary to testimony by snowmobiler representatives WBH never promised that they would not ask for a deer season North of Highway 8. Pure fiction. For their representatives to avoid the public process and come in at the last stages and lobby to get their way is arrogant. Please OK this rule as written and lets try the results and adjust as needed. Thanks for listening.

Todd Zeuske
3490 Sabaka Tr.
Verona, WI 53593
608-833-6849



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



1/18/06

Dear Ned Kozig,

Please consider our feelings in regards to the hunting during Snowmobiling. We would consider closing our portion of the trail if that comes about. We Snowmobile too! We are better hunters, both Bow and gun hunting as well. As many members of family, we consider, Closing these

seasons as an infringement on our rights as licensed hunters. Besides, when hunting who would shoot in the direction of a trail? I ride a portion of the trail, they are inventing their own trouble.

As far as we are concerned, all those T-zones and extra more leader seasons infringe on the bow season, which we

enjoy the most. The could discontinue those and just stick to a regular hunting season up north. The virgin land areas, T-zones are mostly as bad, up north, we contend with wolves, if we had the DNR denies that they're living in our areas, so well, they Cougar which people have been reported. Back been need to be reinstated as they are getting to be a major problem.

Thank you for considering our viewpoints.

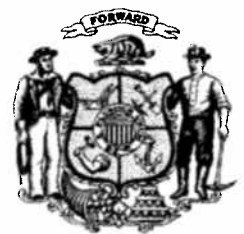
Proud WBH Member,

Dorina M. Fackler
15230 Del. E. Rd.
DePue, WI. 54115

Phone 920-788-5473



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



to: 1/18/06
Sen. Neal Kedzie
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wis. 53707-7882

As committee chairman
for Legislative Natural Res-
ource Committee meeting on
Monday 1/23 I would urge
you to vote for the 4-day
December T-zone hunt to
control deer numbers in
Deer gun seasons 2006-7.

John Papenfuss



John R. Papenfuss

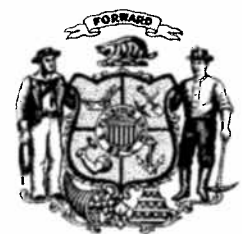
820 6th Ave N

Onalaska, WI 54650

608-783-3385



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



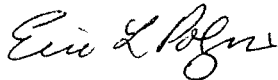
Eric Polzin
5119 Fox Rd.
Janesville, WI 53548
Ph: 608.756.5832
Cellular: 608.921.8895
polzine@charter.net

January 18, 2006

Sen. Neal Kedzie,

I am president of Janesville Bowmen Inc representing 100+ memberships. My concern is the DNR deer season proposal for the 2006-7 season which deals with a December T-zone hunt. I feel a lot of hard work and time has been put into this by a number of groups, only to have it changed by a non hunting group with its own agenda. There is no reason why hunters and snowmobilers can not co exist together at least for four days. Michigan has this and there are no problems. Also, the amount of snow in early December is usually not enough for snowmobilers to operate. Please let sound science rule and support this deer hunting proposal.

Sincerely,



Eric Polzin

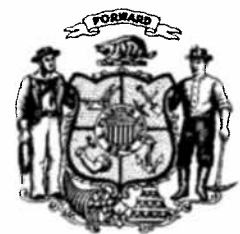
President Janesville Bowmen Inc.

5119 Fox Rd.

Janesville, WI 53548



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



1/19/06

DEAR SEN. NEAL KEDZIE

I AM WRITING IN REGARDS TO
THE SNOWMOBILERS WANTING TO STOP
OUR T-ZONE HUNT IN DEC. WE JUST
WANT TO CONTROL THE DEER HERD,
I ASK OF TO REPERSENT US AT
THE JAN 23RD. MEETING AT THE
STATE CAPITAL RM 412 EAST
AT MADISON, WIS

THANK YOU
WIS. BOW HUNTER &
MEMBER

Bias
O'Brien



BIAS COBRIEN
1549 DAYTON APT 17
MAYVILLE, WI 53050



SEN. NEAL KEDZIE
P.O. BOX 7882
MADISON, WIS

53707-7882

53707+7882

