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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

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

**2009-10**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Natural Resources  
(AC-NR)**

**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**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (Sept/2010)

## Assembly

### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### Committee on Natural Resources

##### Assembly Bill 910

Relating to: establishment of a Wisconsin conservation corps program, extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, granting rule-making authority, and making appropriations.

By Representatives Clark, Mason, Molepske Jr., Black, Pocan, Shilling, Hubler, Vruwink, Danou, Zigmunt, Hraychuck, Seidel, Roys, Dexter, Hixson, Hilgenberg, Richards, Smith, Young, Hebl, Pope-Roberts, Kessler, Milroy, Pasch, Berceau, Ziegelbauer and Turner; cosponsored by Senator Holperin.

April 12, 2010          Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

April 14, 2010          **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present:    (15)    Representatives Black, Danou, Molepske Jr.,  
Steinbrink, Hraychuck, Hebl, Mason, Milroy, Clark, J.  
Ott, Gunderson, Huebsch, LeMahieu, Mursau and  
Nerison.  
Absent:    (0)    None.

##### Appearances For

- Rep. Fred Clark, Baraboo — 42nd Assembly District
- Rep. Cory Mason, Racine — 62nd Assembly District
- Dan Schoof, Madison — Department of Administration
- Don Hammes, Middleton — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Dave Chesky, Reedsburg
- Matthew Brantner, La Crosse — WI Youth Conservation Corps

##### Appearances Against

- None.

##### Appearances for Information Only

- None.

##### Registrations For

- Tom Devine, Madison — National Community Service Board

- Paul Gabriel, Madison — WI Technical College District Boards Association
- Jennifer Giegerich, Madison — WLCV
- Dawn Lingo, Kenosha
- George Meyer, Madison — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Jeff Nania, Portage — Wisconsin Waterfowl Association
- Conor Smyth, Madison — WI Technical College System

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

April 15, 2010

**EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (15) Representatives Black, Danou, Molepske Jr., Steinbrink, Hraychuck, Hebl, Mason, Milroy, Clark, J. Ott, Gunderson, Huebsch, LeMahieu, Mursau and Nerison.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Representative Clark, seconded by Representative Hebl that **Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (15) Representatives Black, Danou, Molepske Jr., Steinbrink, Hraychuck, Hebl, Mason, Milroy, Clark, J. Ott, Gunderson, Huebsch, LeMahieu, Mursau and Nerison.

Noes: (0) None.

**ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 TO ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1 ADOPTION RECOMMENDED, Ayes 15, Noes 0**

Moved by Representative Clark, seconded by Representative Hebl that **Assembly Substitute Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (14) Representatives Black, Danou, Molepske Jr., Steinbrink, Hraychuck, Hebl, Mason, Milroy, Clark, J. Ott, Gunderson, Huebsch, Mursau and Nerison.

Noes: (1) Representative LeMahieu.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1 ADOPTION  
RECOMMENDED, Ayes 14, Noes 1

Moved by Representative Clark, seconded by Representative Hebl that  
**Assembly Bill 910** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (14) Representatives Black, Danou, Molepske Jr.,  
Steinbrink, Hraychuck, Hebl, Mason, Milroy, Clark,  
J. Ott, Gunderson, Huebsch, Mursau and Nerison.

Noes: (1) Representative LeMahieu.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 14, Noes 1

John Maycroft  
Committee Clerk





MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN  
SPEAKER OF THE WISCONSIN  
STATE ASSEMBLY

April 12, 2010

Mr. Patrick Fuller  
Assembly Chief Clerk  
Risser Justice Center, Room 401  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Chief Clerk Fuller:

Pursuant to Assembly Rule 42 (3)(c), I am withdrawing Assembly Bill 910 from the Joint Committee on Finance and re-referring it to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.

I have the consent of Representative Mark Pocan, Assembly co-chairperson of the Joint Committee on Finance, to take this action.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this referral.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Sheridan".

MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN  
Assembly Speaker

MJS/sa

cc: Representative Spencer Black



Representative Spencer Black  
Chair  
Natural Resources Committee

April 13, 2010

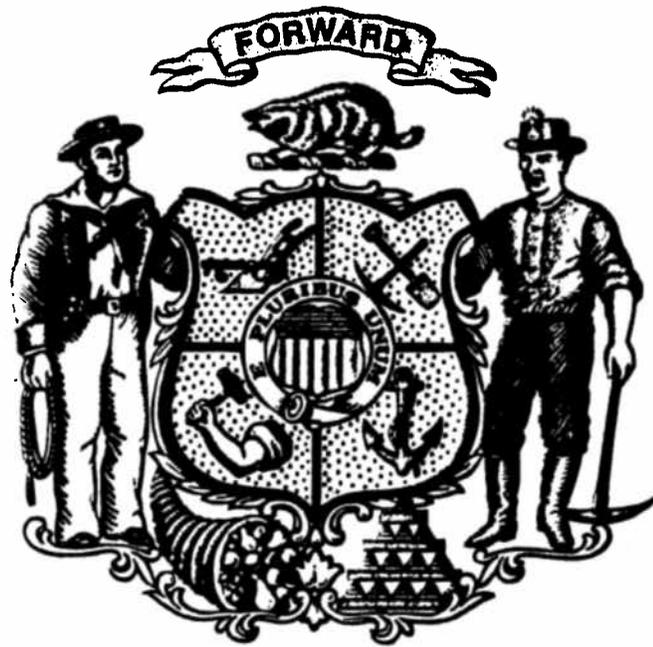
I am unable to attend the Public Hearing on Assembly Bill 910 regarding the re-creation of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps. I would therefore like to submit this letter of support.

I began working for the WCC in 1989 at the US Forest Service in Eagle River WI. as a crew supervisor and held that position for 5 years. During that time in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Madison School on Education and Work a crew supervisor committee, and I created a competency-training program for crew members and crew supervisors. In 1995 I was promoted to the first WCC Training Coordinator and implemented many of the educational programs that were developed. In 2004 I was appointed to serve on the Wisconsin National and Community Service Board by Governor Doyle and presently serve as the Vice Chair.

During my tenure at WCC I experienced a myriad of accomplishments too numerous to mention here. One item of special interest and long range sustainability was the program that I developed to plant trees with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade children. We brought together several crews from around the state for the annual event. I need not detail the affects this program had on our children, the crew members, the parents, teachers and climate change.

It is of utmost importance that we in Wisconsin once again hold our heads high and say yes we treasure our young people and we want to give EVERY YOUNG PERSON IN THE STATE an opportunity to grow, to learn and to go on in life to educate others, through the re-creation of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps.

Tony Hallman  
6517 Hallman Road  
Three Lakes, WI 54562  
[northwoodst@gmail.com](mailto:northwoodst@gmail.com)





# FRED CLARK

*Serving Adams, Columbia, Marquette & Sauk Counties*

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 42ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## Testimony for AB 910 The Wisconsin Conservation Corps Bill Assembly Committee on Natural Resources April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The Wisconsin Conservation Corps operated in Wisconsin from 1983 until 2003 and at its height employed over 300 youth and young adults doing outdoor work in 60 crews across the state. This popular program helped produce a generation of young leaders, taught new skills to at-risk youth, and resulted in hundreds of projects that improved parks and conservation lands throughout the state. As someone who has worked side-by-side with WCC crews, this program's reemergence is significant, and timely for confronting the challenges we face today.

Assembly Bill 910 reestablishes the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC), to build on our tradition of stewardship of our state's natural resources, and to provide our state's young people with work and educational opportunities. The WCC seeks to protect, enhance, and provide access to Wisconsin's natural heritage and encourage and enable young people to learn the value of work in a natural setting by providing employment training and career pathways.

During these difficult economic times, reestablishing the Wisconsin Conservation Corps is more important than ever. WCC will serve 18-25 year olds, and half of WCC crews must have no postsecondary education, and who have a family income of less than 200 percent of the federal poverty line. Simply put, we want to take youth who are at risk and without work, and provide them the discipline and respect of a regular employment, while teaching them marketable skills.

The WCC would be housed in the Department of Administration and a board would provide direction and facilitate projects. A third-party organization specializing in conservation will be charged with the administration of the WCC and supply programming for corps members.

Assembly Bill 910 recreates the WCC primarily by leveraging newly available federal AmeriCorps funding. In Wisconsin, AmeriCorps funding is administered by Serve Wisconsin. We expect that more than \$7 million will be available in 2010 for Wisconsin's AmeriCorps-funded efforts – twice as much funding as in 2009. Other federal legislation will likely bring additional funding allocated to the states for youth corps programs.

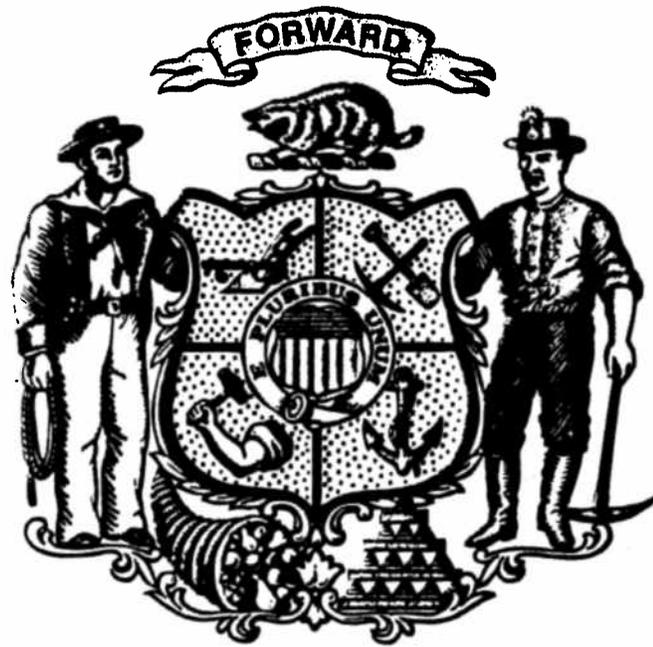
The program itself requires commitments from the Department of Natural Resources, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands and other state agencies willing to use existing funding for the program. In addition to upfront capital, the state match can also be accounted for by using existing funding for state programs, such as high school equivalency degrees offered by the Technical Colleges.

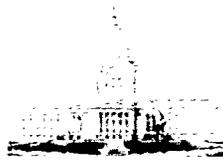
This is enabling legislation. Under the substitute amendment, the bill does not appropriate funding, but rather directs DOA to develop a plan for administering the program and identify funding sources – that plan will receive review and approval by the Joint Finance Committee.

We believe the substitute amendment cleans up the intent of the original bill, and it ensures better continuity for WCC and its ability to expand and contract with the influx of federal and state money.

While drafting this bill, Representative Mason and I organized a workgroup of many members from Serve Wisconsin, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, the Department of Administration, the Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Foundation, the Technical Colleges, UW-Colleges/Extension, nonprofit conservation crews and former WCC executive directors, crew leaders and members.

Just like during the Great Depression, our nation and state face major challenges today. The advent of a Civilian Conservation Corps brought hope to many young workers struggling to find employment, and we can do that again on a state level with a new Wisconsin Conservation Corps. WCC was an organization that meant a great deal to a lot of people, and by reviving this popular program, Wisconsin will be investing in new jobs and keeping a proud tradition of conservation alive.





STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**CORY MASON**

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY  
62ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
*REPRESENTING THE GREATER RACINE COMMUNITY*

**TO:** Assembly Committee on Natural Resources

**FROM:** Representative Cory Mason

**RE:** Assembly Bill 910, reestablishing the Wisconsin Conservation Corps

**DATE:** April 14, 2010

Chair Black and members of the committee, thank you for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 910, reestablishing the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC). This legislation provides us with the rare opportunity to bring back a popular and proven program that develops young leaders, creates meaningful jobs, and enriches Wisconsin's tradition of preserving our natural resources.

As was the case when the Wisconsin Conservation Corps was originally created in 1983, our state is facing an unemployment crisis which hits 18-25 year olds the hardest. The legislative district I represent has faced double digit unemployment for several years. While my community of Racine and other parts of the state are all too familiar with the heart-wrenching stories of families struggling to get by in these tough times, some of those most hard-hit by the global economic crisis have been our communities' young adults. When available jobs are scarce, and workers with advanced education and training scramble to find meaningful work, there are even fewer opportunities available for teenagers and young adults.

Recreating the Wisconsin Conservation Corps will offer hope and opportunity to these young adults. Participants in the WCC will conduct conservation and natural resources projects throughout the state, supervised by experienced crew leaders. Participants will receive a stipend and educational credit. The program will build upon and expand partnerships between the state, technical and community colleges, and local governments and nonprofit organizations, offering participants access to a rich and well-developed network of educational, professional, and conservation-related resources.

The WCC also draws upon Wisconsin's proud tradition of stewardship of our natural resources, and will instill in participants a life-long appreciation of and understanding for our natural environment. The projects WCC participants will conduct will also be of tremendous value to



communities seeking help maintaining and preserving their recreational areas, forests, bridges, streams, prairies, and other natural areas.

No one program can address all of the problems facing our state, but recreating the Wisconsin Conservation Corps tackles a specific set of problems in a proven, effective, targeted way, while leveraging newly-available federal resources. This legislation has been drafted in a collaborative manner exemplifying the very spirit of the WCC. In crafting this bill, Representative Clark and I have worked closely with, and benefitted greatly from the input of, numerous stakeholders, including Serve Wisconsin, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, the Department of Administration, the Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Foundation, Wisconsin's Technical Colleges, UW-Colleges/Extension, and nonprofit conservation corps.

And perhaps most importantly, our work shaping this legislation has been guided by the countless former WCC staff, crew leaders, and members, whose stories about the difference this program made in their lives have inspired us and spurred this effort to reestablish the WCC. As one former WCC participant noted, the WCC "showed me a way that I could provide stability and hope for my family. The environmental education I received has made me a conscientious steward of natural resources and I have passed those values on to my children."

Thank you for holding this public hearing today on this important piece of legislation. I hope that this committee will take quick and positive action to support and advance this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.



April 14, 2010

AB 910  
Folder

Dear Chair Black and Natural Resources Committee Members,

It is an honor to provide the following testimony on behalf of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps.

In 1980 I was a 15 year old girl living in a small house in a poor rural community with both parents and two younger brothers. My stay-at-home mother never finished high school or developed employment skills. My father provided our family's only income. Around that time, his disease progressed to a point that he was no longer able to earn a living. He fell into a depression and alcoholism as he waited for his disability determination. Our family's situation was bleak and frightening.

That summer I applied and was accepted to participate in the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps at Kettle Moraine as a camper. I thrived in that environment where I learned about to care for our natural resources, developed a good work ethic, gained confidence in my ability to contribute productively, and built relationships with camp counselors who were the first college students I ever met. I was chosen as "honor camper" by my peers and counselors and applied and was accepted to return the following summer. I returned as a Camp Quarterly. In that role I developed office skills and worked closely with another Camp Quarterly, a young woman from an educated family who had plans to go to college and who served as a model for helping me understand how to conduct myself professionally.

WYCC offered me an opportunity to develop skills that, for the rest of my life, would make me more employable. Equally as important, during a critical development stage, I learned about the interdependence of people and our environment and experienced a more healthy way of living. Unlike most summer camps available to youth, I was paid minimum wage for my work. This small wage allowed me to contribute to my family's financial stability.

My experience shaped me dramatically. Knowing this program helped me, and inspired curiosity in me to look for other resources and I later enrolled in a Private Industry Council program where I earned a post-secondary certificate that gave me the skills to secure a good job. My relationships with college students fueled a dream in me to aspire to be more and in 1992, I became the first person in my family to earn a bachelor's degree. I currently serve in a professional capacity in the University of Wisconsin system where I help administer two federal grants. With the help of Senator Kohl and many key community leaders, I was recently instrumental in bringing a \$1 million ARRA grant to my community to assist with economic recovery and workforce development.

WYCC showed me a way that I could provide stability and hope for my family. The environmental education I received has made me a conscientious steward of natural resources and I have passed those values on to my children. My subsequent participation in the workforce and my engagement as a citizen has made me a good model for my children, ages 17 and 24. My daughter is completing her college degree and is employed with a major corporation in a professional capacity.

Bringing WCC back would provide the dual benefits of reinvigorating Wisconsin's ability to care for its natural resource legacy while simultaneously strengthening Wisconsin's future workforce for this generation and the next; an investment that will pay back many times through a more skilled and educated workforce, a sustainable natural environment, and stable families. I strongly encourage you to pass this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Lingo

6631 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Kenosha, WI 53142

262.705.4678

Lingo\_dawn@yahoo.com



Jim Doyle  
Governor

Joel M. Haubrich  
Board Chair

Thomas H. Devine  
Executive Director



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[www.servewisconsin.wi.gov](http://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov)

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## Wisconsin National and Community Service Board

### SERVE WISCONSIN

April 14, 2010

Natural Resources Committee  
State of Wisconsin Assembly

Dear Representatives:

The National and Community Service Board oversees the AmeriCorps funding provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service to the State of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Conservation Corps as proposed in the substitute amendment to 2009 AB 910 would be eligible to receive the federal assistance if a successful grant application is submitted by WCC or its representative. A single AmeriCorps application will be submitted at a time that the federal Corporation for National and Community Service requires in the AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity. While this is a time of increased federal assistance for AmeriCorps it is also a time that many state budgets are strained which means some states do not have the capacity to request their full funding allocations. This translates into opportunity for Wisconsin because the National and Community Service Board is prepared to request an additional \$1 million in AmeriCorps supplemental funding for program year 2010-11.

AmeriCorps was reauthorized in 2009 and set on an expansion path to increase the number of AmeriCorps members from 75,000 in 2008 to 250,000 by 2017. In 2010 the AmeriCorps appropriation was increased by \$101 million and President Obama's 2011 Budget includes an increase of \$115 million for AmeriCorps. The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act included \$200 million for AmeriCorps while the Federal Jobs Bill includes another \$200 million for AmeriCorps. The Public Lands Service Corps Act of 2009 passed in the US House with \$12 million for WCC types of activities and the Senates version is in committee. WCC is the type of program that crosses many funding streams and effective grant writing for federal funding will be necessary to grow the program. Expanding opportunities by increasing the number of WCC members is a realistic possibility and the State of Wisconsin must be prepared to assist with generating program match support as the program grows and diversifies its funding sources. AmeriCorps match requirements increase incrementally until they reach 50% after 10 years of receiving the federal assistance.



Please recognize that WCC members enrolled in AmeriCorps will be eligible for a \$4,725 federal education award if they successfully completed a 1700 hour full-time position. This level of educational funding is significant for a youth enrolling in a technical college.

Finally, AmeriCorps funding creates an immediate infusion of dollars into local economies due to the limited support provided to members. In addition, it is important to recognize that for each 100 full-time WCC members the local community receive a value of improvement estimated at \$3,656,700 (100 members X 1700 hours X \$21.21 value be hour). It is also estimated that each member will recruit 15 to 20 volunteers that will engage in an average of 10 hours each. Using the 100 member program this would calculate to 20 volunteers X 100 WCC members = 2,000 volunteers X 10 hours = 20,000 hours X \$21.51 = \$430,200 in local community value. As important as it is to complete the conservation service projects it is perhaps more important that the 2,100 people engaged with WCC will get the opportunity to serve which may be the beginning of a life time effort of giving back to their communities.

You can easily see that Serve Wisconsin receives no direct value from the creation of WCC. The minimal state investment serves to leverage federal funding which benefit local communities and youth while improving the environment and infusing resources into local economies. Attaching WCC to the Department of Administration and requiring the departments support of the operations inclusive identifying resources provides an effective launchpad for the WCC program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Devine', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas H. Devine, Executive Director  
Serve Wisconsin





**Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps, Inc.**  
2702 Quarry Road  
La Crosse, WI 54601

April 14, 2010

Committee on Natural Resources Testimony  
**Re: AB-910 - Relating to: Establishment of a Wisconsin Conservation Corps program**

Prepared by:  
Matthew Brantner – Executive Director, Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps, Inc.

Members of the Committee on Natural Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of AB-910, relating to the Establishment of a Wisconsin Conservation Corps program. As someone who has seen firsthand the power of the conservation corps model to change lives, I urge you to move AB-910 forward.

Through my work with the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps, Inc., I have had the opportunity to interact with numerous individuals who have participated in the old Wisconsin Conservation Corps program.

**Held by these WCC alumni are the following job titles:**

- Forester,
- Soils Technician,
- Professional Trailbuilder,
- Engineer,
- Business Owner,
- Conservation Technician,
- Operations Manager,
- Forestry Technician,

It is clear to me that the WCC has had a profound impact on the lives of these young adults as they entered the workforce during the 1980's and 1990's. The WCC gave them confidence, job skills, exposure to careers in the conservation field, a chance to earn their GED, and a tuition voucher to take the next step in their education – a solid step toward permanent employment in the Wisconsin workforce!

**As WCC Corps Members, these individuals also gave back as much as they received.**

I find it hard to go anywhere in this state without coming across the small metal signs bearing the WCC logo that mark the site where a crew worked years in the past. Park shelters, fences, trails, historical markers, retaining walls, boardwalk, bridges, and kiosks – all constructed by hard working WCC crews, still stand today as a reminder of how the WCC once literally shaped the face of Wisconsin!

AB-910 brings back the WCC program for a whole new generation of Wisconsin young adults, during an economic time when Wisconsin needs it most. During such tough economic times, I believe that is also important to note that AB-910 is cost effective for Wisconsin – appropriating a fraction of the funding

provided to the original WCC program and sharing the remaining cost with the National and Community Service Board, non-profit partners, and local project sponsors. The result is a sustainable conservation corps program that will continue to benefit both Wisconsin's citizens and natural resources for generations.

Finally, I will leave you with a few quotes from former Corps Members recently posted on a WCC alumni forum that I created through my work with WisCorps. From their comments, one can clearly see their passion for the WCC program, even after all of these years.

***"I worked for the Appleton WCC crew and then ran a crew in Brillion. This is a great program that is needed now more than ever. Bring WCC back!"***

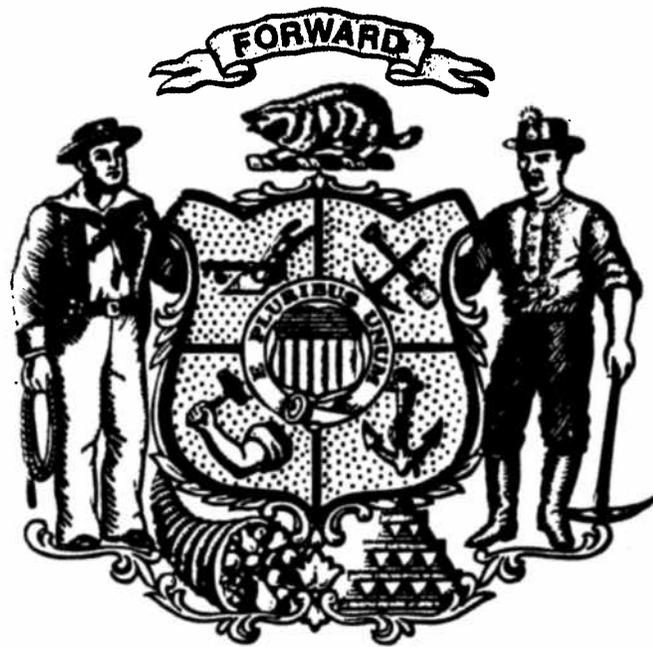
***"I was on the Sheboygan crew in 1996-1997. I loved it! It gave me so many experiences in addition to the tuition waver. I was able to use the experience to get a job that allowed me to continue working at what I loved and to get a degree that was applied to it. They really should bring it back."***

***"If it wasn't for the WCC, I wouldn't have a Master's Degree!"***

Thank you for supporting AB-910.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Brantner  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps, Inc.



To Whom it may concern:

AB 910  
Folder  
Date ?

Hello,

My name is Dave Chesky. I served proudly as a crew leader for the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC) back in the early days, 1984-86. I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony about my valuable experience with the Corps.

I interviewed for the position of WCC Crew Leader at the International Crane Foundation (a major sponsor in the project) in the spring of 1984. Over the next couple of years I lead a crew of 6 young adults in completing a diverse mix of conservation projects in the Sauk County area. Projects included prescribed burning, invasive species management, landscaping, sign making, fence building, various light construction projects (including an extensive boardwalk system on Blackhawk Island), forest inventory,

This was my first experience in leading a group of young adults. I welcomed the challenge. It proved to be an extremely valuable experience for me. The challenges and rewards were many and helped pave the way to my success in securing the position I now hold and have held for the last 22 years at the Crane Foundation.

The diverse mix of projects put together by all the sponsors provided many opportunities for my crew to develop new skills, many of which would be valuable to them for the rest of their lives. Skills developed included chainsaw operation, use of a wide variety of hand and power tools and organization and proper care of them, proper lifting and material handling techniques, identification of prairie species and invasive species and use of safe and proper use of herbicides.

Safety was central to our every effort. Awareness of all the particular hazards associated with each job was key and a part of the daily routine.

A very large part of the experience for the crew was learning how to work together as a team. This is an extremely valuable "life skill" that the WCC offers

the corps members the opportunity to develop. Many of them had not been in this situation before and I truly believe they reaped many lasting impressions from this part of the experience. I know I certainly did.



**Testimony from UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor David Wilson  
AB 910 Substitute Amendment,  
Wisconsin Conservation Corps Bill**

Date ?

**TO: Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee**

Although the Board of Regents has not taken a formal position on AB 910, the UW System has a long-standing tradition of supporting the programs and initiatives of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and activities that encourage learning about higher education opportunities in Wisconsin. In concert with that support, I believe this legislation would:

- foster meaningful work experiences for youth ages 18-25
- provide job skills
- expose youth to higher educational opportunities
- provide additional stewardship for Wisconsin's natural resources and help for much needed conservation projects, and
- allow the visitors of today and future generations to enjoy Wisconsin's natural resources.

This bill also expands partnerships between the UW System, the Wisconsin Technical College System, local governments, and nonprofit organizations.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt became president in March 1933, the country was in the midst of the worst depression ever experienced in the United States. Among the organizations established to help relieve the situation was the Civilian Conservation Corps (the CCC), not only one of the first to begin operations across the country, but also one of the most successful of the various "alphabetical agencies" of the New Deal period.

The CCC was designed to simultaneously solve two of the major problems facing the country: provide financial relief and help implement conservation projects. And that is precisely what this bill will accomplish in Wisconsin, albeit on a smaller scale.

CCC workers contributed millions of hours of labor improving national wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries, national forests, and national parks. Nearly 70 years later, we can still appreciate their work in helping to restore natural resources and providing jobs. The legacy of the CCC lives on:

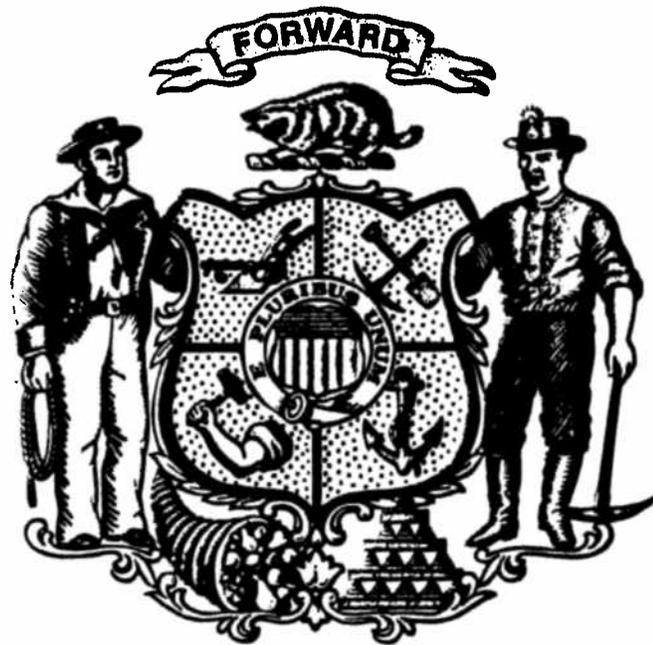
- More than three million participants gained new skills they could use to find work or build a career.
- Hundreds of millions of trees were planted in forests across the country.
- Thousands of miles of trails were built.

Out of America's dark days came the largest conservation project and peacetime mobilization in history. It was a unique movement to restore, cherish, and save our treasured places.



Today, as much as then, a revitalization of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps can help restore our public lands, historic sites, stream banks, forests, manage invasive species, collect data for scientific research, and much, much more. I know the UW Colleges and UW-Extension will participate fully in this partnership.

Let's begin the benefits of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps once again.



**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association**  
**Testimony on Assembly Bill 910---Wisconsin Conservation Corp**

Date ?

Good morning. My name is Don Hammes and I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and a member of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association. I am here today on behalf of both the WWF and WWA to testify in support of Assembly Bill 910. I am also here because I once worked for the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and have some first hand knowledge of the benefits of this program.

AB910, if passed, would restore the WCC and that would positively impact many of the young people of Wisconsin, many cities, county and non-profit organizations and many members of the wildlife community of Wisconsin.

When I worked for WCC I was the Publication Editor and marketing/communications person for the main office here in Madison. For nearly four years I traveled all over the state reporting on the different WCC projects being worked on and the different sponsors of those projects. On all accounts this program was then what is known as a win, win, win program and if restored will once again be a win, win, win program for Wisconsin.

The WCC Program took hundreds of young people, who had little or no direction in their lives, no skill or trade that they could use to obtain gainful employment, little or no income, and in many cases, homeless and gave them everything they needed to get their feet back on the ground. This new Corps program will accomplish the same thing. It will give young people throughout the state a job, with a paycheck, and it will give these young people an opportunity to learn some job skills that they can use to find permanent employment. In addition both the old program and the proposed new program provides an opportunity for these young people to obtain a scholarship from the AmeriCorps Program that will help pay their tuition at a local technical college or a university.

A second benefit of this program was the completion of thousands of conservation related jobs all across the state including new trail construction, trout stream improvements, timber stand improvement, removal of invasive species, stream bank stabilization, prairie restoration, the construction of shelters and benches and many, many more projects. These projects not only improved habitat for wildlife they restored and improved Wisconsin's natural resources that we all enjoy so much

And thirdly, this program provided the means for many city, county and town governments as well as the Department of Natural Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, all with reduced budgets, to get many badly needed conservation projects completed that otherwise would not have been completed. And this is where we are today, these same city, county and town governments and the DNR and Fish and Wildlife Service all are experiencing reduced budgets that leave our public woods, fields and streams neglected, overrun by invasive species and in a deteriorating condition. This severely impacts the multi-million dollar tourist industry, the multi-million dollar hunting, fishing and trapping industry and many other outdoor recreational activities. The Wisconsin Conservation Corps can once again come to the rescue and help our young people, provide jobs, restore natural resources, and support the tourism and sporting industries

As former Governor Tommy Thompson said, "One of the smartest things we did in this state was to create the Wisconsin Conservation Corps." Ladies and gentlemen, let's do it again...the need is as great today as it has ever been. Pass AB910. Thank you



AB 949

+ Jeanne Cargill

AB 950

o Ann Gryphan

+ Rep. Seidel

- Mark Finger

AB 910

+ Rep. Clark

+ Rep. Mason

+ Dan Schoof

+ Dave Chesky

+ Matthew Brantner

*Heisch, Hebl, Maleysha*

Date  
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