



2013 Senate Bill 278

Senate Committee on Workforce Development, Forestry, Mining, and Revenue Schedule

Department of Natural Resources Testimony
Quinn Williams
Bureau of Legal Services

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. My name is Quinn Williams and I am the Section Chief for Natural Resources in the Bureau of Legal Services at the Department of Natural Resources. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you to be able to provide information from the agency's perspective relating to Senate Bill 278.

Senate Bill 278 allows landowners who are bulk sampling within a proposed ferrous mining site to temporarily close Managed Forest (MFL) lands that are currently designated as open to public recreation, similar to the ability that is granted landowners to close or restrict public access to any area of open managed forest land which is within 300 feet of any building or commercial logging operation.

Senate Bill 278 contains two differences.

- 1. The first is the ability for the landowner to enter into an agreement with the DNR to determine what, if any, recreational activities will be provided to the public on these lands and the time frame in which the recreational activities will be allowed.**

This provision acknowledges the importance of access to private lands for recreational activities, while at the same time acknowledging that active bulk sampling operations may put the recreational user in danger of explosive materials and debris and increase landowner cost and liability if harm should occur to the public, their equipment or time frame in completing bulk sampling operations. DNR would post the closed acreage restriction on its public web site to notify the public of the temporary closure, most likely on the private lands open to public recreation web site and the web sites related to mining.

- 2. The second is that for the lands that are closed to public recreation at any time during the year, the landowner will be paying the closed acreage rate the following year.**

This provision goes above the closed acreage restriction around buildings and commercial logging operations since landowners with buildings and commercial logging operations continue to pay the open tax rate, but is consistent with the new provisions in Wis. Stat. s. 77.883 related to the Department being able to restrict access when such restrictions are necessary for engaging in bulk sampling activities.

The acreage of lands that are subject to a proposed ferrous mining site may include more acres of lands than a commercial logging operation, since the bulk sampling plan or pre-application description may include additional lands as necessary for excavation, waste sites, processing facilities, site erosion control and storm water management. The bill will also assist the Department in our ongoing employee safety efforts at the site. The Department has safety protocols in place that we follow, and it is always good to know who is on the site.

There are a few things that should be highlighted for future consideration and discussion:

1. Landowners are not required to post lands closed to public recreation, however if they choose to do so there are posting standards on size of the signs and on wording. While it is expected that all people know where they are when recreating on private and public lands, many people may not always know their exact location and may inadvertently trespass on lands legally closed to public recreation.
2. Based on the language, the size of the “proposed mining site, as described under s. 295.46 (1), for which the person proposing to engage in ferrous mining has provided preapplication notification under s. 295.465” appears to be “frozen in time” and there does not appear to be a mechanism to change the dimensions of the site should the site change subsequent to what is provided in a preapplication notification under s. 29.465, Wis. Stats.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 278. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.



REPRESENTATIVE JANET BEWLEY

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

Senate Bill 278 Testimony September 4, 2013

Good Morning/Afternoon Senators. It is customary to thank the chair and members of a legislative committee for providing an opportunity for testimony on a legislative proposal. Unfortunately, I'm not sure that is the case here today. While I appreciate your time and attention, I believe this hearing should be postponed.

There is absolutely no reason to rush this bill through the legislature. The Senate will not be in session until later this month, there is no Assembly companion and the people most affected by the legislation, the people in the 74th Assembly District, had no realistic way to get to Madison today. The hearing was noticed late on Friday before the Labor Day weekend with Tuesday being the first day of school. The five hour or more trip from the area of the mine requires a little more advance planning that that.

In addition, the rush to hold a hearing means that we won't hear from many of the experts, like the Council on Forestry. Substantial changes to the MFL have traditionally gone through the council in the past. It is my understanding that they are meeting next week to discuss reforms to the MFL. We should be waiting to get their input.

I had hopes that the legislature could put some of the rancor behind us by working together. My staff has been meeting with staff representing a bipartisan group of legislators, including Rep. Mursau and Senator Tiffany, to come up with a reasonable way to protect mining workers. I urge committee members to put this bill aside until we hear from the Council on Forestry and have time to see if the bipartisan group of legislators can come up with a bill that we all can agree on.

Thank you.



74th Assembly District



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John Muir Chapter

**Sierra Club comments on SB 278, September 4, 2013 Committee Hearing
Senate Committee on Workforce Development, Forestry, Mining, and Revenue**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 278 on behalf of the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter and our more than 15,000 members and supporters statewide. My comments today are on behalf of the many Sierra Club members, including myself, who have experienced the beauty of the Penokees on foot, skis, and snowshoes. The Penokees are an important recreation and conservation area and famous for birds and other wildlife that the public enjoys watching, photographing and documenting for ourselves and our children. Ironically, the fact that these lands were enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program has played a key part in protecting them and ensuring that the Penokees are very high quality lands prized for all forms of recreation including hiking, hunting and fishing. SB 278 takes those public rights away from us.

The Sierra Club has been consistent in our opposition to deregulation of mining laws for Gogebic Taconite (GTac) and opposition to the mine proposal itself. GTac's proposal to site the world's largest open pit taconite mine in Ashland and Iron Counties is unquestionably the largest and most controversial environmental issue ever before the state legislature. The open pit mine itself, along with nearly a billion tons of mining wastes will make turn multiple square miles of land into unusable industrial wastelands that will permanently threaten air and water resources for the sensitive and irreplaceable Bad River Watershed that feeds Lake Superior. Yet the Republican-controlled legislature and Governor Walker have repeatedly approved significant reductions and exemptions written by the company for the company.

SB 278 is just the latest example of an exemption carved out to benefit only GTac and the owners of the land it leases, while depriving local governments the tax revenues they deserve if these lands are removed from the Managed Forest program for mining purposes. Mining is prohibited activity for lands enrolled in the Managed Forest program. Under current law, the owners of the land are required to withdraw the land from the program and pay the back taxes; taxes that every other property owner with MFL lands are required to pay.

SB 278 is a disproportionately extreme response to a single unfortunate incident. It is just as extreme and disproportionate to any perceived threats from protesters as was GTac's deployment of illegal unlicensed paramilitary guards at the proposed mine site. The Sierra Club opposes SB 278 and urges this committee to reject it.

SB 278 is a fix to a problem that doesn't exist since the current MFL Program already allows landowners to apply to close either 80 or 160 acres per municipality, per owner depending on



the year the land was entered (Stats. Chapter 77.83). Since GTac is leasing in two townships (Morse and Anderson) this means the three owners together can legally close a minimum of 480 acres already without SB 278 (the maximum number of acres could reach 960 if all lands were enrolled after 2005). If the intent behind SB 278 is truly the protection of the public during bulk sampling work, the legal closure provisions of the MFL allowing these owners to close at least 480 acres is more than adequate.

If 480 acres of closed land isn't enough to protect the public from mining exploration activities, then the intent of this bill is transparent; the intent is to bar the public completely from the site while taking away our legal right of recreational activity on the site. In response to a single incident, SB 278 takes away the rights of the overwhelmingly vast majority of state citizens who want nothing more than to exercise their rights to hunt, fish, hike, ski and observe the natural beauty of the Penokees. The bill essentially criminalizes these activities by prohibiting them for an unknown period of time that could stretch for many years to come.

SB 278 has a sunset provision providing that the closure of the mine site land and limited tax payments both be halted if the DNR approves or denies a permit application or determines that the company has ceased to pursue a permit. That may sound reasonable but given the new limits on permitting forced on DNR by 2013 Act 1, the reality is that the permitting effort is likely to take many years given the regulatory role of the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies which are not limited to the arbitrary time frames for permitting in state law.

The Sierra Club does not agree that SB 278 is necessary to protect workers from any imagined protesters since it is within the rights of the company to hire licensed security to protect the acreage already legally allowed to be closed under the MFL program. We also note that SB 278 provides that the amount of acreage that can be closed equals the amount listed in the pre-application notice. This means approximately 6,744 acres could be closed, well in excess of the approximately 4,000 acres the company has suggested might be close. That is nearly 70% more acreage and increases the amount of lost back taxes to the local towns by the same amount.

Public recreation areas, including the Penokees, are big business in Wisconsin. It is not a small "inconvenience" for the public (both Wisconsinites and tourists) to lose access to thousands of acres of this beautiful and important conservation area – both in the short and long term. SB 278 is one more exception carved out for a special interest mining company proposal that has immense and permanent negative impacts to Wisconsin's tourism economy and quality of life.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Blouin, Mining Chair, Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter

Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters working to reduce climate change and protect natural resources in Wisconsin.



Senate Committee on Workforce Development, Forestry, Mining and Revenue

Strongly Opposed to SB278

September 4, 2012

SB278 is not necessary and is unfair to the taxpayers of Wisconsin. Wisconsin's forestry program has evolved over time, based in sound science, balancing the needs of private land owners and the public's interest. Wisconsin's conservation history shows us that time, open process and sound science resulted in better management of private, forested lands which sustain forest industries and to which the public has access. If families who enroll their forested lands don't comply with the program, they have financial consequences; in essence, they have to compensate the taxpayers with whom they have a contractual agreement if they break that agreement.

It is disturbing to see our elected officials give handouts to an out-of-state company, with a very poor environmental track record, instead of promoting the interests of Wisconsin families. The people of Wisconsin worked together to heal the wounds of the great northern forest cutover, and in the process developed scientific protocols to restore watersheds choked by erosion after large-scale deforestation. Wisconsin is the birthplace of many of the ecological restoration practices used around the world, in no small part due to people working together to repair landscape-scale destruction that benefitted few at the cost of many.

Senate Bill 278 is special-interest legislation that is devoid of the hard won knowledge and successes of our past experience.

Recently, G-TAC threatened to charge one of Wisconsin's premiere wetland botanists with trespass for asking to work cooperatively with G-TAC on field studies needed in the permitting process. The area of the proposed mine is rich with wooded wetlands and unmapped streams. Part of the permitting process requires a thorough inventory, conducted by credible experts, of wetlands, surface waters, plants, animals, springs, groundwater and other natural features. G-TAC has been less than forthcoming with credible and scientifically accurate information throughout the process of pursuing what would be the largest destructive activity in the history of the state. Restricting the public from open areas, beyond what is allowable in current law, increases the likelihood of shoddy science and the lack of public confidence in the process.

The people of Wisconsin haven't changed. They still have a deep conservation ethic and are used to participating in a clean and open government. Even though bills like SB278 are cooked up in back rooms without stakeholder involvement, while also diminishing the opportunity for public comment through minimal public notice, citizens have gone to the inconvenience and expense to be heard. Many interests are at stake and SB278 negatively impacts those interests, including the contamination of the drinking water for the region. A sufficient case for the need for SB278 has not been made.

The Department of Natural Resources has all the discretion needed under current law to accommodate industrial activities to protect the public and allow commercial activities to proceed. SB278 doesn't pass a public policy smell test. I urge you to oppose SB278.

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Test Drilling Disrupted at Penokee Hills Proposed Mining Site

14Jun

The following is an anonymous communique from the June 11 action. Read below the communique to find out how you can get involved.

by some wild coyotes / Wisconsin Anarchy



Hurley Police and Iron County Sheriff's Officers responded to the site after receiving a call from Iron County Sheriff Tony Furyk. Credit Danielle Kaeding, WRNC

On Tuesday, June 11th, some wild ones awoke to the sound of a drill rig and flatbed trucks driving up the ridge of the Penokee Hills in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Idea Drilling LLC were attempting to drill the first of eight core samples that would be used to determine the quality and quantity of iron ore in a 22-mile long stretch of the Penokee Hills, slated for open-pit mining destruction by Gogebic Taconite. Forty percent of Lake Superior's wetlands lie downstream from the Penokee Hills, as does the Bad River Ojibwe Reservation, whose members depend on healthy waterways for their wild rice and fish. Surely, the amount of waste rock present in this type of mining would result in sulfides and heavy metal pollutants being exposed to these precious waterways downstream and would change the land that human and non-human lives depend on for survival forever. Making the preliminary stages of this mine as expensive as possible to send a clear message to financiers that this is an extremely risky investment is one strategy that was being pursued in the following action.

Wearing t-shirts and bandannas for masks, about fifteen wild ones sprang into action, added their own lock and chain to the gated entrance and built several barricades out of small boulders and downed trees. This was done on the access road in order to delay the anticipated police response for what was to happen. Once arriving to the site where the drill workers and managing geologist were, folks took the space over for about an hour. They jumped on trucks and the collection tank and threw pieces of equipment like pickaxes, fire extinguishers, and shovels down the hillside into the thick of the woods. Fences were knocked over and broken and personal cigarettes were

raided out of one of the company vehicles as workers and the manager stood in awe. When it was discovered that the manager was taping all of this for evidence, their camera was snatched, broken, and thrown into the woods. Minutes later, a smart phone was snatched for the same reason and it met a similar fate.

At this point, some of the workers escaped the site in a company vehicle in order to find reception to call the police, because cell phones and CB radios do not work once you are on top of the ridge. We stayed about 10-15 minutes longer, but then decided to leave in order to avoid arrests. We disappeared into the woods and were able to outwit and outrun sheriff deputies on ATV's because we know the terrain better than they do. We were able to inflict damages upon the company in the form of an entire day of labor costs through the disturbance and subsequent police reports that their workers had to spend their shift doing, as well as shatter their sense of security.

Another outcome of the protest is that Gogebic Taconite will be forced to hire private security for the company contracted to do exploratory drilling in the Penokee Range. Ashland and Iron County sheriff's deputies were on the scene Tuesday, but Ashland County Sheriff Mick Brennan said they can't afford to staff the drill site 24/7, so that kind of security is up to the mining company.

May the costs continue to be imposed and may the security guards and mining managers cower in fear.

-some wild coyotes

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Testimony on SB 278 Regarding Managed Forest Lands in the Penokee Hills

Chairman Tiffany and Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce Development, Forestry, Mining, and Revenue, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation representing 185 hunting, fishing and trapping clubs located throughout the state, including many members in Ashland and Iron counties.

The Federation is testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 278 as it is currently drafted. Before I go into the reasons that we oppose the substance of the bill and provide some constructive changes to the bill that will reduce the substantial adverse impact that the bill will have on hunting and fishing by sportsmen and women, I would like to address the process that brings us here today.

Let me start out by indicating that there are very few hunters and angler in Iron and Ashland counties that even know that this bill is introduced and that they will lose their hunting and fishing spots. And from the reaction that we have received from the few that we were able to contact over the Labor Day weekend, they will be very upset that they did not have a chance to weigh in on this bill which will eliminate their use of this land for bear hunting, deer hunting and grouse hunting, possibly as early as this fall. The reaction that we got is that this process is a sterling example of why many citizens have such a poor view of those that make political decisions in Madison and Washington D. C.

As to the substance of the bill, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation fully understands the need to protect those that work on the mining site and those that use the MFL lands for hunting, fishing and recreational pursuits. We definitely wanted to support a bill that established buffers from any work site that would establish proper and necessary buffers. Unfortunately this bill goes too far and allows the Department of Natural Resources without any policy direction from the legislature to close the full 4000 acres of MFL land associated with the mining site. That clearly is overkill. You should be aware as you make this decision that this land is heavily used every year for hunting bear, deer, grouse and other upland game. We know of several deer camps that will be displaced from their fall hunt.

We know that those that support the bill are strong supporters of the Penokee mine. Unnecessarily closing hunting and fishing opportunities will only breed more opposition to the mine. By the way, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has not taken a position either way on the mine itself and in fact, our 55 member Board of Directors has met in Iron and Ashland counties with both the mining company and those opposed to the mine in order to get a full perspective on the pros and cons of the mine.

The Federation Board has voted to support a 300 buffer strip around any mine site on MFL lands in order to protect mine workers and hunters and anglers. This is a sufficient distance to

protect all involved in the bulk sampling process. The 300 foot buffer is what is used currently around logging sites on MFL lands and seems to work well.

At the time that a mine would be constructed, it is anticipated that the 4000 acres will be withdrawn from the Managed Forest Law program as part of the mining permit process. Because of that, there is no need for this bill to protect the mining site upon mine approval. Please consider that during the years during which the pre-application and mining application approval process is taking place, this bill would unnecessarily prevent hunting and fishing on all of the 4000 acres beyond the 300 foot buffer.

The Federation recommends the following changes to SB 278:

1. Modify the bill to set buffers of 300 feet around any iron mining site.

If you don't agree with this recommendation, please make the following changes:

2. Place criteria in the bill giving guidance to the DNR for their negotiations with the mining company on the closure agreement required by the bill. The Federation on behalf of the hunters and anglers that use the 4000 acres recommends that one of the criteria be that only land **actually necessary** to protect the mine site and recreational users be closed by the agreement.
3. Require that DNR seek public comment on any proposed closed area agreement for 30 days including locally in Ashland and Iron counties. These comments will help refine the area closed by those that know the land best and will give the hunters and anglers some ownership of the final decision.
4. Require the mining company to provide adequate signage on the perimeter of the closed area in order to prevent inadvertent trespass. Be aware that the MFL land in question abuts public land that is also heavily used for hunting and fishing. Having been on the site several times, I can attest that it is all forest and you cannot tell when you cross the property line between the public land and the MFL land.
5. Require that the closed acreage fees paid under this bill be sent to the county in which the closed land exists to be used for fish and wildlife projects on county forest lands in the county. This may help mitigate the concerns of sportsmen and women in the county that will lose valuable hunting and fishing access.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I will be glad to answer any questions.

George Meyer, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
September 4, 2013



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Wisconsin Wetlands Association Testimony
Senate Bill 278

Presented by Tracy Hames, Executive Director, September 4, 2013

Mission Statement: Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education and advocacy. WWA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Testimony: Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on 2013 Senate Bill 278 addressing public access procedures on land enrolled in the Managed Forest Land (MFL) Program. Before I address my specific comments on the proposed bill, I want to provide a general observation. This bill represents an attempt to involve the legislature in a very specific issue related to an individual company's management of their private business. If the Wisconsin Legislature wishes to get involved in specific management issues of private business, there will be no end to the amount of legislation required. Do we want individuals seeking legislative remedies to every challenge they face in the development of their businesses? Besides being unmanageable, this will promote a culture of government dependency, stifling entrepreneurial creativity. One of the characteristics that makes Wisconsin a desirable place to live is the ability of its citizens to face challenges creatively, working together toward their solutions. The encouragement of private individuals to seek legislative solutions increases the amount of unnecessary law and the dependence of individuals on governmental intervention.

My specific comments are included below:

- 1) There is no guidance or sideboards created to assist the DNR in its negotiations regarding the amount, timing and location of open or closed areas. This will promote uneven, confused implementation, and mistrust of the DNR by current user groups in the area. Dealing with the development and processing of these agreements will require valuable staff time that is already in short supply. Addressing the concerns, objections and challenges by user groups will require even more DNR staff effort, effort that could be more efficiently spent elsewhere.

The company must be encouraged to work with the DNR, Tribal governments, counties and communities on the development of solutions to the issue of criminal activity. A cooperative approach will result in the most efficient, cost-effective means of ensuring safety for the mining employees and in maintaining public access provided by the properties' enrollment in MFL. If the company continues to seek legislative solutions to issues that are more appropriately, effectively and efficiently addressed at the community level, local distrust will persist.

- 2) The enforcement of the provisions of this bill is unclear. If an area is closed, who has the responsibility to enforce its closure? Is it the responsibility of the DNR, the County

sheriff, the mining company? Is signage required to provide notice to those recreating legally on adjacent properties so that they do not trespass unknowingly? Will the closure of land effectively keep those with criminal intent off the property? It could be argued that when land access is criminalized only criminals will access the land.

- 3) Closure will inhibit scientific assessment of the mining proposal, causing delays in its review. The development and approval of a large open pit iron mine is a serious endeavor. The analysis of such a proposal must be done carefully, and be guided by the best science. The use of scientific means to assess the impacts of an iron mining proposal requires an open, peer-reviewed process. If peer review is inhibited by denying access to the land, permit review will be delayed.

An example of this is in the recent attempted review of the wetland delineation portion of GTac's Bulk Sampling Application. One of the most respected private wetland delineators in Wisconsin was hired to review this application. This individual employed professional courtesy by contacting the original delineators to inform them of the review, which would include on-site verification as there were several unclear aspects in the delineation report. The response to this professional courtesy was a letter from a law firm threatening *criminal* prosecution if she entered the property with the intent of reviewing the delineation. Simple questions that could easily be addressed by a site visit are currently left unanswered and will need to be addressed at a later date in the permit review by a DNR-accompanied site visit resulting in a permit processing delay and added expense.

- 4) The rights of private property owners are reduced by this bill. This bill allows an iron mining company to enter into an agreement with state government, without required landowner participation, that will affect the ability of the landowner to control the activities on his/her land. Section 4 of the bill goes further in requiring the landowner to pay the increased taxes that result from the agreement between the mining company and the DNR. A landowner must retain the right to make decisions on the activities that occur on owned property. In this instance a landowner has chosen to enroll land in MFL allowing public access in exchange for a reduced tax rate. This bill strips the control of land access and tax rate away from the landowner, allowing a third party to negotiate an agreement with state government which will result in increased tax responsibilities for the landowner. Existing procedures in the MFL Program allow *landowners* to change the status of their MFL land from open to closed.

I have spent many hours in the last few months personally walking the hills just to understand the landscape and reconcile what I hear in Madison with what I see on the land. This bill will criminalize my activities. There are reasonable ways of preventing criminal activity in the proposed iron mine area of the Penokee Hills. All affected parties, whether in favor of the mine, against it, or neutral, share a desire to prevent this activity. Closure of these lands will inhibit scientific review, be difficult or impossible to enforce, erode private landowner rights, and likely be unable to prevent criminal activity. Let us spend our time working together to develop enforceable solutions to this issue.

We would be happy to answer any questions or to have you contact our office for further discussion. I can be reached at 608-695-7511.

Senate Bill 278 Hearing - Written Testimony

September 4, 2013

by

Bruce J. Noble, PhD.

Grandparents Against Sulfide Pollution - Madison

My name is Bruce Noble. My testimony concerning SB 278 will be given by analogy.

I began my teaching career in 1957. I was also a high school basketball coach.

Most team sports are contests over territory. Two opponents vying to conquer the other. still, winner and loser peacefully shake hands after the game knowing the field was level for both.

Sport can not be compared to Wisconsin's majority party today because it represents an ideal. Contests with rules fair to both sides and honest referees to enforce them. The people require the Greek Ideal of friendship, respect, and excellence, the philosophy that democracy depends on moral character taught in the sports arena.

As much as I disagree with sports referees at times, I seldom see examples where they go beyond human error. Competition is controlled by NOT not allowing one side to run roughshod over another.

The problem with real life, life with the majority now in power, is that legislative "referees" make rules that advantage one side. If the rules don't work they change them in mid-game. The best interests of all God's creatures seldom considered. Worst of all, they do not act objectively because powerful influences beyond the game shift outcomes to the advantage of the privileged and make a mockery of the democratic ideal.

I can see myself sitting on the bench with a competitive team, ready to allow talent and tactics have their way. Then I see the referees wearing earbuds. Messages are being sent to the referees from black-suited strangers in the press box. The messages go: "Call Noble's guy for steps." "Remember, your paycheck depends on OUR team winning."

I can handle human error. I make them all the time. But unethical practices go well beyond human error. Most Wisconsinites try to live by the Greek ideal. Sportsmanship and honesty. Call them naive but that's what they learned in school.

I refuse to accept flagrantly erroneous calls made by un-elected influences.

I know you will not listen to anyone today. Still we come to let you know we will fight ferociously until the people are heard and we get a fair game.

Respectfully,



Bruce J. Noble
25 Hiawatha Circle
Madison, WI 53711

Will Sandstrom aided E. Germany, Finland, Hungary, Poland and Baltic Nations get free of Russia in 70s, 80s

Info to Lawyers, Judges and politicians; People may hear or read comments about others, themselves, and the author, Will Sandstrom, Hence I must present some facts --and a supporting letter--that beginning in 1977 I helped Finland to get free from Russian fist. Then the Finns new freedom helped East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and others get free from Russia.

I begin with Russia and Finnish Karelia: The ultra-nationalists, the Mafias and Fascist skin heads in and outside Moscow may try to control Russia. They were present in Russia and Karelia before 1999, and are present now; See Karelia Question, <http://peacecountry0.tripod.com/finnliv6.htm>., and <http://peacecountry0.tripod.com/finnliv.htm#post>. Russia is too big for one ruler. It has many organized crime groups run by Russian Slavs, various Moslem tribes, and avowed or closet Zionists.

In 1977 I went to Finland to help support my wife while she was studying medicine. For over ten years I lived occasionally in Finland. While there I found Finland had problem of being under strong Russian influence. In fact from 1809 to 1917 it had been a Grand Duchy of Russia. While I was in Finland trying to help free it from Russian influence, a person(s) tried to vacate (close) a road my family had used since 1907 to access our homestead property. Dirty tricks or more? More later.

To find my roots I began in 1969 visiting relatives in Finland. I found, as stated, that Russia in 1970s had rather strong influence in Finland. For example, the Finnish currency, the Markka, was not exchangeable into any western currency. Having received a Ph.D. in Biochemistry I thought I would try to help Finland become more free by bringing document forms in 1977 on how Finland and its scientists might enter into a research funding agreement with USA. Former Senator Hubert Humphrey had tried to open better relations between Finland and USA. But he said Russia would not allow it.

For bringing research agreement I was jailed in Finland. Allegedly Russians wanted to find if I was a secret agent. But as I was not I was released in a few weeks. Then interestingly while in Finland I was the first average USA citizen allowed to enter Russia and Estonia. Back then, Americans were not allowed to enter Russia or its satellites as Estonia. Yet with a church group I was allowed into Ingria, Karelia, and Russia. Later I went alone to Karelia, area of the Veps, and Estonia.

In Tallinn, Estonia, a Finnish man my age of then 46 and I accidentally met 2 younger ladies. They understood no Finnish, while Estonians do. Chatting in English I sensed they were Russians. I asked from where they were. They said they were from Moscow. Then they said they wanted us to meet their mothers that evening in a Tallinn University dorm--they were empty during summer. I was a bit leery about accepting--and for good reason. Reason was that ordinary Russians were not taught English back then--so as to not understand BBC shortwave news. Only trusted high families' kids learned English.

But I dared to take a chance and went to the dorm that evening--the Finn didn't. At the dorm I met two older ladies--their mothers, nicely dressed. We chatted. One mother said, "Our husbands have been to New York, Washington, and Miami. But we never could go to USA with our husbands. We also have been to same cities , but only alone--never with our husbands or daughters". I did not ask--for I knew the reason. It prevented defection as their loved ones were in Russia.

I assumed they came to Tallinn often so I asked, "Why do you come to Tallinn?" The other mother said, "Tallinn is our Miami. Only in Tallinn and not in Russia can we watch USA TV shows broadcast from the tall Helsinki TV tower, which as you know is close across the Gulf of Finland. We come here to watch the I Love Lucy Show".

Next one mother invited me to come to Moscow. Then with gloves on her hands she wrote on a paper the first part of a phone number and on another piece she wrote latter part. She told me to put the two pieces in separate areas in my luggage. Then she said, and I paraphrase, "You must buy a classical Russian musical record and have it on top of your things in your luggage as you leave Russia. At the border a guard will ask you to open your luggage. He will notice the record and ask if you like Russian music. You answer, Da, Da, Yes. He will smile and won't search your luggage".

In Finland a year later at a "Russian Friendship Visit" by some Presidium members, and other high Russians, I noticed in a large conference room the two mothers sitting in the front row to one side. I wondered if their husbands were members of the Presidium. I have always wondered if I should have gone to Moscow, and made a phone call. Whom would I have met?

In any event, shortly afterwards, the then USA President Jimmy Carter and Finland President Urho Kekkonen signed the research agreement. And soon Finland became totally free of fist. When will Russians leave Karelia, Ingria and Petsamo?

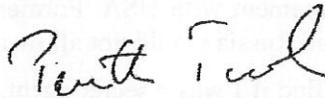
Next, in summer 1988 I met some Hungarians during their "Friendship Visit" to Finland. I knew they had only a border fence with East Germany. To a few delegation leaders I tactfully suggested that they open holes in their fence and allow some East Germans to go through Hungary into Austria and freedom. They asked who I was. I gave them my name and said I was an American living with and helping support my Finnish wife while she attended medical school in Finland. They said Hungary has to be careful as a satellite of Russia, and that when Hungary tried to gain freedom in 1955 America would not help. I said there are many new politicians in America and they most likely would help now.

Then surprisingly in Spring and Summer of 1989 the Hungarians opened up holes in their fence. At first this allowed a few East Germans to go through Hungary to Austria and freedom--and later that summer more. The world watched for fear that the Russians would again send troops into Hungary to stop East German exodus. But they did not enter Hungary. Then in the Fall of 1989 the Berlin Wall began coming down. Yet few know about role of an unknown man who cared and dared?

Tampere February 25, 1993

To whom it may concern

When Dr. Will Sandström came to Finland 1977 to find his roots and to be with his wife while she was studying medicine in Tampere (M.D. degree 1983) he brought with him research agreement documents and application forms explaining how Finland might enter into a research ^{funding} agreement between USA and Finland. The result was an research agreement that was underwritten by Finland's then President Urho Kaleva Kekkonen and USA's then President Jimmy Carter.



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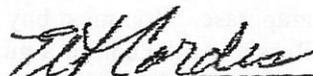
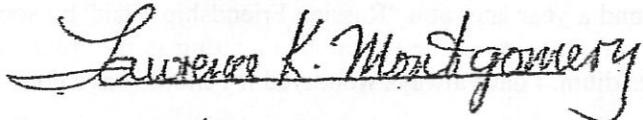
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To the Dean and Faculty of the Graduate School:

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by Wilbert A. Sandstrom has been accepted by the Ph.D. Advisory Committee as satisfactory in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Ph.D. Degree.

Chairman


(Research Adviser)

SUMMARY

A mutatorase hypothesis is developed to account for experimental observations relating to the variability of antibody structure.