



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Scott Hassett, Secretary

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May 9, 2005

David L. Lovell, Senior Analyst
Wisconsin Legislative Council
One East Main Street, Suite 401
Madison, WI 53703-3382

Dear Mr. Lovell:

Representative Terry Musser has asked that I contact you regarding proposed legislation (WLC 0127) which would give limited state recognition to wardens of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). As you know, my staff has worked closely with Legislative Council staff in the drafting of this legislation and has previously testified in its support before the Special Committee on State - Tribal Relations.

I wish to reaffirm the Department's support for WLC 0127. Department law enforcement staff have an excellent working relationship with GLIFWC wardens and are familiar with the limitations placed on their roles due to the fact that they are not considered state law enforcement officers. This proposal would provide the necessary tools for properly trained GLIFW wardens to do their off-reservation treaty rights enforcement through provisions which recognize their ability to operate police vehicles, carry firearms and access the state's criminal history data base. The proposed changes would provide the recognition that GLIFWC officers need without expanding their authority over non-Indians except in emergency situations that pose a significant threat to life or bodily harm or when requested by another law enforcement agency.

Again, the Department of Natural Resources is in support of WLC 0127.

Sincerely,

Scott Hassett
Secretary

cc: Michael Lutz, LS/5
Amber Smith, AD/5
Randy Stark, LE/5
Amy Smith, AD/5
Representative Terry Musser
James Schlender - GLIFWC