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# ROGER BRESKE

## STATE SENATOR

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February 22, 2007

Bob Williams, President  
Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association  
8758 S. Wind Pudding Dr.  
Hazelhurst, WI 54531

Dear Bob:

Thank you for contacting me about Wisconsin's conservation priorities. I wholeheartedly appreciate hearing from you and regret that I was not able to meet with you on Conservation Lobby Day.

As you know, Governor Doyle announced his 2007-2009 state budget on February 13, 2007. I am pleased to let you know that the Governor included several provisions that will increase the state's ability to partner with local groups to control the spread of invasive species in Wisconsin. I have enclosed an excerpt from the budget bill for your reference. Among other things the Governor has proposed increasing funding for boat ambassadors by \$215,000 in each year and increasing the state's cost-share from 50 to 75 percent. Rest assured, I will keep your comments in mind and will work where I can on behalf of the Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association.

On December 13, 2005, the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, including Governor Doyle, signed agreements at the Council of Great Lakes Governors' Leadership Summit. This agreement would provide protection for the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin by limiting water diversions from the basin to strictly regulated exceptions. However, it will not take effect until it is endorsed by the region's eight states and ratified by Congress. Although I am not aware of any legislation that is currently being considered concerning this issue, I will refer your comments should legislation be introduced and come up for consideration by the Senate.

You provide some valid concerns regarding the integrity to natural resource management in Wisconsin. The Hunter, Angler, Trapper Bill of Rights would help restore integrity to natural resource management by authorizing the Natural Resources Board to appoint the DNR Secretary and amending the state constitution to prohibit the spending of conservation funds for purposes other than their statutorily designated purposes. I am pleased to be reintroducing legislation to protect all segregated funds on behalf of the taxpayers of Wisconsin. For years, I have fought against raids on user-fee funded accounts like the Conservation Fund and the Transportation Fund. My constitutional amendment would prohibit a transfer, lapse or expenditure of segregated funds in any manner that would conflict with the purpose of the fund.

Recycled paper

Reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund was the first recommendation by Governor Doyle for the Department of Natural Resources 2007-2009 Budget. Beginning in fiscal year 2011, the Governor allocated funds to the Stewardship Fund with \$105 million annually to support land acquisition and property development by the department, nonprofit conservation organizations, and local governments. The Governor also adjusted the local assistance limit to \$14 million and allowed the Natural Resources Board to award grants to nonprofit conservation organizations of up to 75 percent of property acquisition costs if the board finds that the acquisition meets certain criteria. As the Legislature negotiates the 2007-2009 State Budget this session, please know that I will continue to work to promote reauthorization of the Stewardship Fund.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Best wishes.

Sincerely,



ROGER BRESKE  
State Senator, 12th District

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