



KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release
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Van Roy Praises Senate Passage of AB 748

MADISON – State Rep. Karl Van Roy (R-Howard) is pleased to announce that Assembly Bill 748, which prohibits shooting at power and telecommunications infrastructure, has passed the State Senate. The bill also provides penalties for those who shoot and damage the lines and equipment, an action that can be quite costly to businesses and rate-payers.

“Today’s passage of AB 748 in the Senate means we are one step closer to deterring vandalism and making sure Wisconsinites don’t pay higher rates for power and telecommunication services,” said Van Roy. “I am thankful to Senate leadership for moving on AB 748 in a timely fashion.”

Since 1994, more than \$180,000 worth of damage has been caused by gunshots to power lines, according to the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS). Now, with the advent of dove hunting in Wisconsin, there is potential for even greater damage, as incidents may arise in which hunters shoot at birds roosting on power lines. The statewide financial impact is even greater when the cost to other energy and communications companies is considered.

“Right now, power and telecommunications companies don’t have many options to make sure people who cause this damage must pay for it,” stated Van Roy. “Instead, rate-payers like you and me end up footing the bill through higher fees. That’s not fair. The one who takes the shot should pay the price.”

Under AB 748, anybody who shoots and damages electric or telecommunications equipment must pay a fine, pay the cost to repair or replace the damaged equipment, and have his hunting license revoked for one year.

In addition to being supported by utility and telecommunication groups, the bill is also supported by the Electrical Workers Union who feels the bill will make working conditions safer for employees, sporting groups who feel the bill promotes the responsible use of firearms, and by the Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association. AB 748 now awaits scheduling to be signed into law by Governor Doyle.

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