



KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Rep. Karl Van Roy

May 18, 2006
1-888-534-0090

Van Roy Announces Formation of Great Lakes Caucus

MADISON – The inaugural meeting of the Great Lakes Caucus was held yesterday at the State Capitol, according to group member Rep. Karl Van Roy (R-Howard). Approximately 20 legislators have joined the new bipartisan caucus that aims to promote issues relating to the Great Lakes.

“The Great Lakes have been central to Wisconsin’s economy, environment, and culture throughout our state’s history,” said Van Roy. “Now, we have a forum to discuss how best to protect these unparalleled natural resources.”

The purpose of the caucus, founded by Sen. Joe Leibham (R-Sheboygan), is to get legislators who represent Great Lakes communities together on a regular basis to learn about and promote issues that affect Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Van Roy is no stranger to Great Lakes issues; this past session, he authored Act 287, a law requiring management of the cormorant population on Lake Michigan, and co-authored Act 390, a law that helps restore the Cat Island chain in the Bay of Green Bay.

“Our Great Lakes are part of the largest freshwater system on the planet,” said Van Roy. “By learning how to care for them, we are doing the right thing for our constituents and our environment.”

Chuck Ledin, Director, Wisconsin DNR, and Jim Te Selle, President, Wisconsin Great Lakes Coalition, addressed the caucus this morning. Ledin spoke on key initiatives under consideration, including the Great Lakes Charter Annex agreement between eight U.S. States and two Canadian Provinces. Te Selle presented information on the Wisconsin Great Lakes Coalition, an advocacy group dedicated to preserving and improving lakeshore land and property.

“This is a great opportunity to learn about and legislate for our state’s greatest natural resource,” said Van Roy. “I look forward to continuing to do our part in protecting the Great Lakes.”

###