



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

March 17, 2015

Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington DC 20240

RE: Docket No. FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024

Dear Director,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed 4 (d) rule (80 Federal Register 2371-2378; Proposed Rule) for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB). As elected officials from Wisconsin, we strongly support a NLEB listing as Threatened and giving the state the ability to implement sound management practices.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has also submitted concerns regarding the proposed rule and offered conservation measures that will protect the hibernating bats while also allowing for timber harvests. Included in WDNR concerns is the proposed 0.25-mile zone which could be detrimental to our forest industry. The proposed rule could prohibit timber harvest from April to October, which basically spans the logging season in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's timber industry is one of the top economic drivers in Wisconsin and accounts for more than 62,000 jobs. The proposed prohibition would have a crippling effect on Wisconsin's economy and severely impact forest management plans for future harvests. We believe a listing as Threatened will give the state and the USFWS an opportunity to work together to find a management plan that provides for proper harvesting of timber while protecting NLEB.

We urge the USFWS to consider the comments submitted by WDNR when finalizing the rule. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Jeff Mursau  
Environment and Forestry, Chair  
36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Alvin Ott  
Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage, Chair  
3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

Gary Tauchen  
6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Bob Kulp  
69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Robert Brooks  
50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Dave Murphy  
56<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

David Steffen  
4<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

John Macco  
88<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Joan Ballweg  
41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Bob Gannon  
58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Mary Czaja  
35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Andre Jacque  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Nick Milroy  
73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

Joe Sanfelippo  
15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Scott Krug  
72<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Paul Tittl  
25<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Scott Allen  
97<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rob Swearingen  
34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Mike Rohrkaste  
55<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Beth Meyers  
74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Janet Bewley  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District