



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Deb Andraca

23RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

BAYSIDE BROWN DEER FOX POINT MEQUON RIVER HILLS THIENSVILLE WHITEFISH BAY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Deb Andraca's Statement on SCOWIS 6-1 Stewardship Decision

MADISON, Wis. -- In a 6-1 decision today the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled the Joint Finance Committee cannot anonymously block conservation projects funded by the Knowles Nelson Stewardship program – the same process used in an attempt to stop the Cedar Gorge Clay Bluffs project in Ozaukee County.

In 2022 [Governor Evers stepped in to save Cedar Gorge](#) by allocating funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), but JFC continued to block conservation projects across the state.

Representative Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay) issued the following statement: “Today the Wisconsin Supreme Court confirms what we have said all along – a “pocket veto” by a legislative committee, with no public hearing or vote, is wrong.

“Years of work by community advocates, local officials and conservation experts should never be cast aside for the personal preferences of one anonymous legislator. I strongly support today’s 6-1 decision and I hope this is the start of more transparency by the Joint Finance Committee.”

Today’s *Evers v. Marklein* [decision](#), led by Justice Rebecca Bradley, transcended liberal-conservative ideological lines in ruling that the committee’s actions “unconstitutionally authorize the legislative branch to arrogate and impede the executive’s core power to execute the law, violating the separation of powers structurally enshrined in our constitution.”

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Representative Andraca was elected in 2020 to serve the 23rd District in the State Assembly, which includes the northern suburban Milwaukee communities of Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, Mequon, Thiensville, River Hills, and Whitefish Bay.



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