



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Deb Andraca

23RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

BAYSIDE FOX POINT GRAFTON MEQUON THIENSVILLE WHITEFISH BAY

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Howard Marklein, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
Room 316 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Mark Born, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
Room 308 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Dear Senator Marklein and Representative Born,

I am writing to urge action on the proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant for the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, which was received by the Joint Finance Committee on June 14, 2021. This grant will create the Cedar Gorge Clay Bluffs nature preserve, protect a unique shoreline ecosystem at risk of overdevelopment, and provide free, public access to Lake Michigan.

This project is overwhelmingly popular with my constituents and has strong bipartisan support from our local elected officials. For years the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust has been working to secure private and public funding, including \$10,000 from the Town of Grafton and \$200,000 from Ozaukee County. The Knowles-Nelson grant, currently stalled before your committee, represents the last piece of the puzzle.

An anonymous objection has been raised to this project, but no reason has been provided for the objection and no public meeting has been scheduled. Of all our legislative committees the Joint Finance Committee is the most powerful – and as such, it should be the most transparent. The public deserves to know how their tax dollars are being spent – or in this case, not being spent – and why a project with broad bipartisan support is being denied.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program was named for two of Wisconsin's revered conservation-minded leaders, Republican Warren Knowles and Democrat Gaylord Nelson. When we walk, hike, or sit on a bluff overlooking beautiful Lake Michigan, we all connect to the natural world that has inspired generations of Wisconsinites. Our state's proud conservation history has always come before our politics, and it is in this spirit that I urge you to hold a





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hearing and resolve any objection to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to create the Cedar Gorge Clay Bluffs nature preserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deb Andraca".

Representative Deb Andraca  
23rd Assembly District

cc: Joe Malkasian, Committee Clerk

