



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Media Release

For Immediate Release
February 1, 2016

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Rep. Stuck and Rep. Shankland: Transparency Needed in Political Appointments

MADISON – Last week, Governor Walker appointee, Shawano realtor, and Walker donor was named the Chair of Wisconsin’s Natural Resources Board, which sets policy for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). According to news reports, Terry Hilgenberg donated \$1,500 to Governor Walker’s 2010 campaign, \$1,500 to Governor Walker’s recall campaign, and thousands of dollars to other Wisconsin Republicans.

“Our natural resources are too important to be controlled by partisan politics, and with Terry Hilgenberg’s new chairmanship of the Natural Resources Board, that is just what we will see,” said Rep. Amanda Stuck (D-Appleton). “Hilgenberg has donated thousands of dollars to Republican leaders for decades, including at least \$3,000 to Governor Walker since 2010.”

Rep. Stuck and Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) have introduced legislation to increase transparency in executive political appointments. Under LRB 2537, the governor and other appointing officers would be required to disclose information relating to their relationship with the appointee, the campaign donations they have received from the appointee, and more.

“Political appointees often have the highest positions in government and receive the highest taxpayer-funded salaries,” said Rep. Shankland. “The people of Wisconsin deserve to know that these individuals are qualified and working for the state’s best interests, not being rewarded for their donations and political connections. Our bill would return transparency and taxpayer confidence to political appointments, and I urge my Republican colleagues to move our proposal forward.”

“It is clear that under Governor Walker, campaign donations and personal relationships are what matter when executive appointments are made,” continued Rep. Stuck. “That is why we have introduced LRB 2537, which would require the disclosure of relationships and donations in order to avoid conflicts of interest. We need the best and the brightest serving the State, not the best connected and donors with the biggest pockets.”

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