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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Rogue Agencies Need To Be Held Accountable

As you may be aware, the Assembly Committee on Sporting Heritage and the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Small Business and Rural Issues held a joint hearing to ask the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) why the state was not holding a wolf hunt which is required under Wisconsin law once they are delisted as endangered by the federal government. Unfortunately, the DNR decided they did not need to show up and answer questions from elected officials.

The DNR, and all agencies, are supposed to answer to and inform the legislature of changes and important topics that the state will be facing. This recent inaction and neglect by the DNR has made me very aware of our rogue agencies and how it is imperative that we continue to have a healthy system of checks and balances. The DNR needs to be held accountable for its action and inaction. Our current wolf population here in Wisconsin is right over 1,000 whereas the quota set by the state is supposed to be 350, meaning the population is nearly four times what it is supposed to be.

Members of the Assembly and Senate Committees on Sporting Heritage sent a letter to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (WNRB) to ask that they vote to start the wolf hunt. At the January 22nd meeting following the committee meeting, the WNRB adjourned without taking any action on implementing an immediate wolf hunt. The WNRB voted 4-3 with the chairman of the board breaking the tie.

Due to their lack of interest in serving the people of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) along with Hunter Nation filed a lawsuit against DNR Secretary Preston Cole, the DNR, and the WNRB for ignoring the law.

While an annual wolf hunt may seem like a small issue to some people, the bigger issue is that unelected bureaucrats are blatantly ignoring the laws made by elected officials who serve as the voices for the people of Wisconsin. My concern is what will be next to be ignored.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns at Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wi.gov.

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