



MEMORANDUM

February 22, 2010

To: Wisconsin State Assembly

From: Edward J. Wilusz, Vice President Government Relations

Subject: Assembly Bill 138

The Assembly is scheduled, on Tuesday, to vote to override Governor Doyle's veto of Assembly Bill 138 which would give the Natural Resources Board authority to appoint the DNR secretary.

The Wisconsin Paper Council is opposed to Assembly Bill 138 and urges you to support Governor Doyle by opposing the veto override effort.

Retaining the ability of the governor to appoint the DNR secretary in the same manner as all other agency heads is sound management and provides clear accountability for the actions of the agency. When the people of Wisconsin elect a chief executive for the state, they have a right to expect that person to be able to direct agency policy consistent with the views expressed during the election campaign and on which basis the voters made their decision. Placing control of an agency – any agency – in the hands of an unelected board shields the agency from the kind of direct accountability that citizens have a right to expect from state government. Gubernatorial appointment of agency heads makes sense and should be retained for DNR and other agencies.