

## Former DNR Secretaries

Senator Robert Wirch  
316 South, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Rep. Spencer Black  
210 North, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Wirch and Representative Black:

The undersigned represent the Secretaries of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from 1975 through 2006. We are writing to commend you for being lead cosponsors of AB 138 and SB 113 that will restore the appointment authority of the DNR Secretary back to the Natural Resources Board. We unanimously add our strong endorsement to these bills.

We come from different backgrounds and served as both Board and Governor appointed Secretaries and served under both Democratic and Republican Governors. With that broad perspective and having been in the center of knowledge about the strengths and weaknesses of both systems, we believe that the Board appointed system is the far superior system of governance of the Department of Natural Resources.

It is our judgment that a Board appointed system results in greater scientific and professionally based management of the natural resources and provides enhanced citizen involvement in natural resource decision-making. The Board appointment of DNR leadership results in greater leadership tenure and continuity of resource policy implementation while affording a high level of public, gubernatorial and legislative accountability.

A prime benefit of a Board appointed system is that it substantially reduces politically based decision-making in regulatory, enforcement and grant-making decisions. These types of decisions should be based on the laws established by the Legislature and the Governor and the rules adopted by the Natural Resources Board, not based on political considerations.

Noted conservationist Aldo Leopold was absolutely correct when he stated:  
“Conservation must have continuity of purpose and policy and freedom from interference by political control and manipulation.”

In conclusion, thank you for your leadership in restoring the DNR Secretary appointment authority to the Natural Resources Board and we urge your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for AB 138 and SB113.

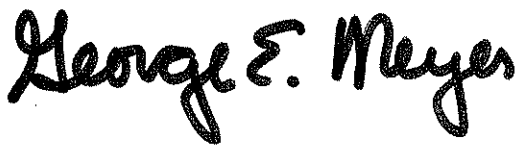
Sincerely yours,



Anthony S. Earl, Former Secretary  
1975-1980



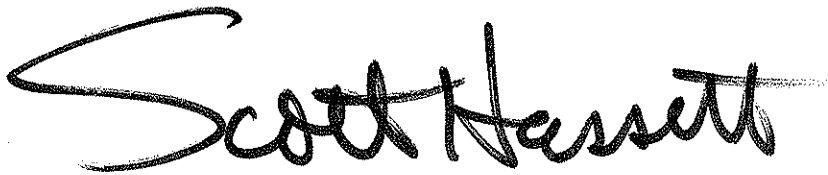
Bruce Braun, Former Deputy Secretary  
on behalf of  
C.D. "Buzz" Besadny, Former Secretary  
1980-1992



George E. Meyer, Former Secretary  
1993-2001



Darrell Bazzell, Former Secretary  
2001-2003



Scott Hassett, Former Secretary  
2003-2006