

To: All Legislators

From: Senator Wimberger and Representative Behnke

Date: October 6, 2021

Re: Co-sponsorship of LRB 4773 and LRB 4870 relating to: stocking brook trout in Lake Michigan.

**Deadline: Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> @ Noon**



This bill is part of the Wisconsin Sporting Freedom Package to defend our rich hunting and fishing traditions and protect our Second Amendment rights for security, defense, hunting recreation or any other lawful purpose. This package simplifies regulations, increases transparency, improves access to our state's natural resources, and guarantees *SPORTING FREEDOM* in Wisconsin.

We are introducing LRB – 4773 and LRB – 4870 to require the DNR to annually stock Lake Michigan with at least 100,000 brook trout. The people of the state of Wisconsin have a long tradition of investing in our wildlife and protecting their habitat. Our sporting heritage is built upon the idea that we responsibly enjoy the fishing, trapping and hunting available to us today while ensuring those resources will be there for future generations.

This initiative to stock Lake Michigan with brook trout is right in line with that long established practice. Maintaining and stocking our lakes, rivers and streams will provide enjoyment for today's anglers, enhance the habitat along Wisconsin's shoreline, and guarantee the sport for generations to come. The brook trout is very popular because it stays close to the shore of Lake Michigan, making it accessible for all types of anglers.

If you would like to be co-sponsor LRB-4773/1, please reply or call Senator Wimberger's office (6-5670) or Representative Behnke's office (6-2343) by Tuesday, October 12th. Co-sponsors will be added to both the Senate and Assembly versions unless otherwise indicated.

#### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources is authorized to transplant or propagate fish for the purpose of stocking waters of the state. This bill requires DNR to annually stock Lake Michigan with at least 100,000 brook trout.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.