



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## **Democratic Sporting Heritage Committee Members Slam Republican Rejection of Extraordinarily Qualified Natural Resource Board Appointees**

MADISON – Today, Democratic members of the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Sporting Heritage released the following statement regarding the vote by Republican committee members to reject four of Governor Tony Evers’ appointees to the Natural Resources Board (NRB):

“We are deeply disappointed in our Republican colleagues’ decision today to reject the appointments of four extraordinarily qualified Wisconsinites. Over the past month, we have had the opportunity to hear directly from Sharon Adams, Dylan Jennings, Jim VandenBrook, and Sandra Dee Naas – who highlighted their many years of experience with issues ranging from hunting and fishing, to agriculture, to conservation, to water quality and the environment.

“Each of them shared their longtime personal connections to the hunting, fishing, and trapping traditions cherished throughout our state. Members of the committee heard directly from these appointees about their family and personal traditions of fly fishing, hunting, trapping, and harvesting – as well as their experience tending family farms, raising livestock, and working to create sustainable local food systems.

“Governor Evers appointed Board members who embody what Republicans have claimed they are looking for: Wisconsinites from every corner of our state whose relationship with our state’s agricultural traditions and sporting heritage is a foundational part of their lives. It is obvious that Republicans set all that aside to push a partisan agenda.

“With today’s votes, Republicans are signaling they do not value the experience of Sharon Adams, who co-founded a successful community-development organization dedicated to revitalizing and sustaining economically diverse neighborhoods, has served on the board for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, and has advised our state’s largest city on natural resources.

“They are signaling they do not value the experience of Dylan Jennings, who is the Associate Director of the Environmental Institute at Northland College, was a spokesman for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and is the first Native NRB appointee in history.



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“They are signaling that they do not value the experience of Jim VandenBrook, who brings over 40 years of experience on agriculture and conservation issues, including serving as a county conservationist – the boots-on-the ground staff supporting farmers and conservation activities at the local level – and as the Water Quality Section Chief at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

“And they are signaling they do not value the experience of Sandra Dee Naas, who has worked with the former USDA Soil Conservation Service, served as a county conservationist, teaches trapper education, and is a teacher and FFA Advisor at the School District of Ashland.

“We would like to thank these appointees for stepping up to serve our state in spite of Republicans’ blatant partisanship. Their service on the Board should not be shortchanged by a shortsighted vote.

“Regardless of partisanship or ideology, it would have been hard for any governor to appoint a more qualified slate of people than the four Wisconsinites that Republicans rejected today. We sincerely hope that our colleagues will reconsider their actions today. The full Senate must acknowledge the unparalleled experience of these appointees and vote to confirm them to the Natural Resources Board.”

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