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# HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Legislation To Allow Anglers and Sportsmen to Cross Railroad Tracks Passes Assembly**

*Bill prevents railroad companies from issuing trespass citations for crossing railroad tracks for hunting and to fish Wisconsin rivers, lakes and streams.*

**MADISON**— State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) announced the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 876 by the State Assembly on February 16, 2016. Sen. Marklein authored the Senate companion bill – Senate Bill (SB) 734 – which provides that the prohibition on entering or remaining on railroad tracks does not apply to a person walking directly across the tracks or right-of-way of a railroad.

“I have heard from many sportsmen and women in the 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District who are concerned about a railroad suddenly enforcing an existing state law that prohibits a person from entering railroad tracks,” Marklein said. “Many locations for hunting and fishing on our rivers, streams and lakes require a person to cross railroad tracks. This bill would change the law to allow a person to walk directly across the tracks to do so.”

Current law prohibits a person to “enter or remain on railroad tracks.” It offers some exceptions for public highways and for a person to drive across them from one part of the person’s land to another, such as a driveway or farm field.

Recently, a railroad has begun enforcing this law and issuing warnings to individuals found crossing the tracks on foot to fish. The railroad believes it is a liability issue.

“As the State Senator for the 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District, I am proud to lead this effort in the Senate and hopeful that we will be able to provide a way for sportsmen and women to fish and hunt while encouraging safety,” Marklein said. “We need to find a compromise between the interests of sportsmen and the responsibility of the railroad.”

AB 876 was passed by the Assembly and is now before the Senate.

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