



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Hesselbein & Agard Advocate for Earth Day Access to State Parks**

MADISON – Representative Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) and Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) circulated legislation highlighting Earth Day next month and its founder, former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson. If LRB-3937/LRB-2328 is passed into law, the daily fee for admission to a state park on April 22nd of each year will be waived.

**“On Earth Day, everyone should have equal access to Wisconsin’s beautiful state parks,”** said Hesselbein. **“Former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson wanted us to enjoy our natural resources while preserving our environment for future generations. Wisconsin’s commitment to conservation has been cherished by generations and can be shared by all of its people. Providing free access to state parks on this special day of honor will encourage all Wisconsinites to visit and enjoy the natural surroundings.”**

In 1970, the first Earth Day motivated millions of Americans to advocate for a diverse array of climate solutions. Gaylord Nelson’s leadership went on to produce the Environmental Decade which ushered in the support of environmental legislation such as the National Environmental Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and stringent amendments to strengthen the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

**“In Wisconsin we cherish our outdoor heritage,”** said Agard. **“Our state parks and natural spaces are an integral part of our Wisconsin way of life. As a mom of four boys, I have seen firsthand the importance and impact the outdoors can have. By inviting more people into our state parks on Earth Day, we are planting seeds that will carry on the legacy of our public lands by teaching future generations how to preserve, conserve, and enjoy all that our shared resources have to offer. This is one step to making sure that our state parks are accessible to all who wish to visit.”**

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