



Conservation Notices of the Week

Week of May 1, 2006 2005 - 2006 Legislative Session

Conservation NOW announces to Legislators and other stakeholders the pro-conservation positions on issues before the Senate and/or Assembly in the week ahead. Some of these policies are the priorities of the conservation community and can be found in the Conservation Briefing Book 2005-2006 which was delivered to your office on February 16, 2005. All of these issues will be tracked on the Conservation Vote Tracker (<http://www.conservationvoters.org/votetracker/>). Many of these issues will be scored on the Conservation Scorecard. Conservation NOW is produced and distributed by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. Please contact Anne Sayers at anne@conservationvoters.org or (608) 661-0845 if you have any questions.

This Week's Notices:

- **Oppose AB 1041/SB 551: Granting Favors to the Detriment of Resources**
- **Oppose SJR 63 and AJR 77: TABOR II**
- **Support SB 1: Ethics Reform**
- **Support LRB 4916: Adequate Power Line and Power Plant Review**

Oppose AB 1041/SB 551: Granting Favors to the Detriment of Resources

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters urges you to oppose AB 1041 and SB 551, which will be before the full Assembly on Tuesday.

The DNR permitting process is based on science. Science guides the agency's ability to protect Wisconsin's natural resources for the enjoyment of current and future generations. By making a permitting exemption for a single property owner, the entire permitting process is compromised. The legislature can not get into the habit of granting favors at the expense of Wisconsin's natural resources.

Oppose SJR 63 and AJR 77: TABOR II

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters urges you to oppose SJR 63 and AJR 77 which will have a public hearing and possible executive session before the Select Committee on the Taxpayer Protection Amendment on Monday.

The provisions recommended by LRB 3511/2 will mean state services will never be able to catch up or keep pace with real economic growth and will continue to shrink, creating a host of negative consequences for natural resources. State park access is just one example of such consequences. To overcome budget shortfalls in Colorado (where TABOR has been in place for some time), the Division of Parks is seriously considering increasing fees, charging for trail brochures and guides, and installing video arcades at some popular state parks. This is not the future that Wisconsin park users envision for their prized state parks.

Support SB 1: Ethics Reform

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters urges to support SB 1 which will be before the full

Assembly on Tuesday in the form of a procedural motion to request a vote of the full Assembly.

The protection of the democratic process is the most significant way the conservation concerns of Wisconsin citizens can be heard over the influence of campaign contributions from special interests. SB 1 will strengthen our democracy by authorizing the merging of the largely toothless state Elections and Ethics boards into a quasi-independent Government Accountability Board that would be vested with greater power to investigate and prosecute wrongdoing by state and local public officials.

Support LRB 4916: Adequate Power Line and Power Plant Review

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters urges you to support LRB 4916, which is currently circulating for co-sponsorship.

The decision to build a new power line or power plant must take an enormous amount under consideration, not the least of which is public health and safety. Current law requires the PSC to decide within 180 days whether to approve a power plant or power line. If a decision is not reached in that timeframe, the project is automatically approved. This artificial deadline constrains the ability of PSC staff to analyze projects and make sure they are in the public interest. In addition, it makes it nearly impossible for the public to participate in the process.

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