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Chairman, Natural Resources Board

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## PRESS RELEASE

Suggestions that I have “coordinated” or “consulted” with state Republican elected officials regarding my position on the Natural Resource Board are just not factual.

In fact, on May 25, I was contacted by a Senate staffer who subsequently sent me the Legislative Reference Bureau memorandum outlining the long-established appointed office holdover rule. That memo confirmed what I *already knew to be true*, that Board members could hold over rather than vacate their seats while waiting on a new nominee’s Senate confirmation.

I did not speak to any currently elected Wisconsin State official in regards to this matter. I did, however, speak with friends and acquaintances as I foresaw holding over could become contentious. I wonder if any other political appointee has ever had discussions with friends and/or colleagues, or even a spouse about what is going on in their lives?

As background, at the time of Jim Tiefenthaler’s holdover on the Board in 2003, I paid attention to the nomination and confirmation process, because one of Governor Doyle’s appointees, Alan Grischke of Wausau was a nominee who awaited Senate confirmation for 10 months. Alan was then, and is now, a valued personal friend. I didn’t need to discuss my situation with legislators, as I had first-hand knowledge of the facts, and presumably more knowledge than legislators who weren’t in office in 2003.

I encourage everyone to read the Legislative Reference Bureau memo. I look forward to the courts resolving my case.

The State of Wisconsin and the Natural Resources Board face many challenges, such as regulation of agriculture, clean water, and management of our lands and wildlife. I will continue to faithfully serve on the Board until Senate confirmation of a nominee to succeed me.