



## REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER

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CONTACT: REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON  
608-266-2401

### MAJORITY LEADER NELSON SCHEDULES OVERRIDE OF GOVERNOR'S VETO *ASSEMBLY TO VOTE ON INDEPENDENT DNR BILL*

MADISON – Assembly Majority Leader Thomas Nelson (D-Kaukauna) announced that the Assembly will be voting today to override Governor Doyle's veto of AB 138, the Independent Department of Natural Resources Bill.

"Our state's outdoor heritage is too important to be left up to short-term political considerations," said Representative Nelson. "The bill would take partisan politics out of the DNR, ensuring that decisions about Wisconsin's natural areas will be in the best interest of the state."

For almost 70 years, the Secretary was chosen by the citizen-based Natural Resources Board. This arrangement removed political influence from the decision making process and helped make Wisconsin a model of conservation. In 1995, the DNR Secretary became a political appointee of the Governor. AB 138 would restore the Natural Resources Board's ability to appoint the DNR Secretary. Governor Doyle vetoed AB 138 last year.

"This bill is not only important for protecting the environment, but also our economy. Hunting alone contributes more than \$1.3 billion to our state's economy, supporting thousands of jobs," said Representative Nelson. "This bill will help us better protect the outdoors and those jobs."

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