

March 22, 2001

State Senator Chuck Chvala  
Senate Majority Leader  
Room 211-South, State Capitol

State Senator Jim Baumgart, Chair  
Committee on Environmental Resources  
Room 306-South, State Capitol

Dear Senators Chvala and Baumgart,

Thank you for your March 21, 2001 letter regarding the isolated wetlands protection bill.

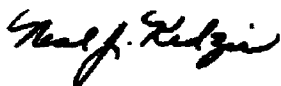
As you know, I have expressed numerous concerns about the scope and purpose of Senate Bill 37. Upon its passage in the Senate on February 13, 2001, I detailed those concerns in a letter to Senators Baumgart and Cowles. That letter outlined several troubling technical aspects of the bill as well as my concerns about the hasty process by which the bill was crafted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and passed by the Senate.

After lengthy discussions with key Senators, DNR staff and Legislative Council staff, I concluded Senate Bill 37 needs a number of revisions to be considered good public policy. On Wednesday, March 21, 2001, I asked the Legislative Reference Bureau to draft a legislative proposal that incorporates many of the provisions in Senate Bill 37 in addition to various constructive, workable revisions. On Tuesday, March 27, 2001, a public hearing in the Assembly Committee on Environment is scheduled for that proposal.

While I appreciate your efforts to facilitate Assembly action on Senate Bill 37 and your offer to help craft a trailer bill, I strongly believe that public hearings on a comprehensive isolated wetlands protection bill are crucial to its passage. The suggestion for a wetlands working group is reasonable only if it does not impede or impair the legislative process.

At this point, I can only urge the Senate to promptly reconvene and concur on Assembly Bill 215 -- the isolated wetlands moratorium bill. I am committed to protecting Wisconsin's isolated wetlands, but only through sound public policy and consensus legislation.

Sincerely,



Neal Kedzie  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Environment  
43rd Assembly District