



Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

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AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

October 22, 2003

Tryg Solberg
Natural Resources Board

Re: Mercury Emission Rules

Dear Mr. Solberg:

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation encourages the Natural Resources Board at its meeting today at Baraboo, Wisconsin to reaffirm its prior decision to adopt mercury emission regulations for utilities in Wisconsin. As the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation testified at your June meeting, this is an important health issue for our members and their families. The sooner that Wisconsin utilities start to implement the reductions called for in the regulations, the sooner there will be less mercury going into our lakes, our fish and our children.

In June of this year you did your job and you did it well. You looked at the science and the policy and you adopted a sound set of rules. Many of us in the conservation community asked for more stringent rules. You listened respectfully to all sides of the matter and you ultimately made a sound and reasoned decision.

The respective Senate and Assembly Committees returned this matter to you for more discussion. **Time is now of the essence. If this proposed set of regulations is not returned back to the Legislature by the end of this month, it may well delay the regulations for over two more years.** The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, along with the remainder of the petitioners has been patiently waiting for over three years already and this issue has been actively studied for over five years.

In contrast to your studied and respectful review of these regulations, the Legislative review process of this rule was biased, one-sided and extremely disrespectful. A mother of a disabled child, nurses, doctors, fishermen and environmentalists were very aggressively questioned and at times berated by Committee members, often at the end of the day long hearing while utility representatives were given early preference, treated with kid gloves and allowed to speak without time limits.

This issue is no longer one of science and policy, it has become one of hardball politics. That is not your job, that is the job of Secretary Hassett, those in the legislature that support the rule, the many fishing and environmental groups that support the rule and ultimately Governor Doyle. Please complete your job by returning this rule to the

Legislature as recommended by DNR staff and let the remainder of the legislative review process begin. Thank you for your time and seasoned, respectful judgment.

Very truly yours,

George E. Meyer
Executive Director