



For Immediate Release
Tuesday, August 21, 2001

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DOYLE CALLS FOR VETO OF DNR SPLIT ***SAYS CREATING NEW BUREAUCRACY WOULD COST TAXPAYERS***

MADISON- Attorney General Jim Doyle Tuesday reiterated his opposition to splitting the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by creating a new Department of Forestry, and called on Governor McCallum to veto the proposal in the budget.

“McCallum refused to take a position when this was proposed, only saying that he will look at the measure if it passed,” Doyle said. “This is the same guy who sat on the sidelines when public control of the DNR was eliminated and the public intervenor was killed. Wisconsin can’t afford for McCallum to take a pass on an important environmental issue again. He needs to take a stand against this awful idea.”

The budget provision calling for the creation of a separate Forestry Department doesn’t even place all Wisconsin forests under the control of that department. Seven southern Wisconsin forests would remain under the DNR’s Bureau of Parks.

“When did we ever save money by creating a new state bureaucracy?” Doyle asks. “The state would have to pay for duplicate management positions, equipment, rental costs and other increased overhead. The State of Michigan split its DNR in order to become more efficient and the move cost taxpayers millions of dollars more.”

Doyle says that creating a separate Forestry Department could also seriously threaten Wisconsin’s environment.

“Wisconsin shouldn’t have a separate department making decisions about trees without also considering the impact on wildlife populations, fisheries, soil erosion and water quality,” Doyle says. “By splitting the DNR, the Governor would be splitting the management of our ecosystem. Even Governor McCallum’s hand picked DNR Secretary and the state Natural Resources Board have said this is a terrible idea. McCallum needs to do the right thing for Wisconsin and strike this from the budget.”

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