



Mary A. Lazich

State Senator

For Immediate Release

August 1, 2001

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Senator Mary Lazich

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DNR Split Not In The Interest Of Wisconsin

State Senator Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin) today asked Governor Scott McCallum to veto the proposed budget initiative to split the Department of Natural Resources into two separate agencies, creating a Department of Forestry. "Natural resource management in Wisconsin is the envy of the nation," stated Lazich, "and there is no reason to dismantle a system that has become the standard that other states strive to emulate."

"We have learned through trial-and-error that effective natural resource management is more than managing wildlife, forests, recreation, and environmental protection," Lazich continued, "It is the coordination of all of the pieces of the environmental puzzle that create an effective system of management."

Lazich cited the facts that forest husbandry works in concert with fish and wildlife, recreation, and environmental quality. Presently, resource management specialists from the various departments of the DNR work side-by-side in order to solve environmental problems as they arise. By splitting the DNR, this coordination and integration of expertise would be limited at best.

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Mary Lazich

Wisconsin State Senator • Senate District 28



August 1, 2001

Governor Scott McCallum
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Governor McCallum:

The citizens of Wisconsin enjoy the benefits of a natural resource management system that is second to none. Our Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the envy of the nation and the standard by which other states measure their natural resource management agencies. We have learned through years of trial-and-error that managing the environment is more than planting trees, setting bag limits, cleaning up toxic waste spills, and running campgrounds. The Wisconsin DNR is effective due to our integrated approach to natural resource management. To split the DNR would negate all of the gains that we have made over the years and would compromise our state's most visible asset, our environment.

Forests are vital to the economic health of Wisconsin. However, forests are also vital to the Wisconsin eco-system. Forests provide wildlife habitat and recreational space that are utilized by hunters, sportsmen, campers, and tourists. To be truly effective, forest husbandry must work in concert with fish and wildlife, recreation, and environmental quality management. Our present system allows for experts to work together to identify problems before they arise and work as a team to solve them. It is not sensible to separate the forest component from the DNR because this is the one part of the DNR that is inextricably intertwined with the other parts.

To split the DNR is a hazard to our environmental future and sound management policies. I strongly urge you to veto the provision in the budget that would split the DNR. Thank you for your consideration of my views on this issue.

Sincerely,

COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary A. Lazich".

Mary A. Lazich
State Senator
Senate District 28

Cc: Secretary George Lightbourn
Mike Rogowski, Chief of Staff

