



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

July 20, 2021

Dr. Frederick Prehn  
413 Jefferson St.  
Wausau WI 54403

Dear Dr. Prehn,

A healthy, functioning democracy requires an engaged citizenry in order to succeed, so thank you for your service to the people of Wisconsin as a member of the Natural Resources Board.

Having said that, a healthy, functioning democracy also has rules in place that allow for an orderly transition of power. Your term of service on the Natural Resources Board expired on May 1, 2021, and Governor Tony Evers has appointed a nominee to fill the position. Sandra Naas has more than 30 years of experience in conservation and natural resources issues; while we reserve final judgment until her nomination has had a hearing before the Senate Natural Resources Committee, she certainly seems more than qualified to fill the position. Senate Republicans have thus far failed to even refer her nomination to the committee for confirmation, let alone held a hearing; however, tradition dictates that the outgoing member would step down from the Board so that the appointee could fill the seat pending confirmation. According to the nonpartisan Legislative Reference Bureau, this has happened in all but two other instances in the history of the Board.

As Governor, duly-elected by the people of Wisconsin, Tony Evers has the right and responsibility to fill open positions on state boards with appointees of his choosing. We fear that partisan politics are playing a role in your refusal to step aside, as doing so would create a majority of Evers-appointed members on the Board. Terms of appointment to the Natural Resources Board are staggered so as to distance board members from such partisanship as much as possible, keeping their focus where it should be, preservation and conservation of our waterways, wildlife, hunting and other outdoor traditions, forests, and air. We hereby request that you follow the precedent set by your predecessors and vacate your expired seat on the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board immediately.

Feel free to contact either of our offices for further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Wirch". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Sen. Robert Wirch, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Natural  
Resources and Energy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Agard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sen. Melissa Agard, Member  
Senate Committee on Natural  
Resources and Energy

RWW:srg