

**Wisconsin Trappers Association----Ruffed Grouse Society,  
Wisconsin Waterfowl Association----White Tails Unlimited,  
Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sports Fishing Clubs  
Walleyes for Tomorrow---Wisconsin Sporting Dogs Association  
Sturgeon for Tomorrow--- Wisconsin Deer Hunters Inc.,  
Sharp Tailed Grouse Society---Wisconsin Muzzleloaders  
Wisconsin Council of Sports Fishing Clubs  
Izaak Walton League-Wisconsin Division  
Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs  
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**

Senator Alberta Darling  
Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
Room 317 East  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Representative John Nygren  
Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
Room 309 East  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

The above listed statewide hunting, fishing and trapping groups representing over 200 sports clubs in Wisconsin with over 100,000 members strongly urge you to support retaining 18.4 DNR research scientist positions in the 2015-2017 state budget.

The research projects and surveys undertaken by these biologists provide the scientific information that is the foundation for fish and wildlife management in Wisconsin. The research that they undertake provides the data for the DNR, the Legislature and Wisconsin hunters, anglers and trappers to make informed decisions about fish and wildlife populations, harvest seasons, harvest quotas, habitat needs and land management practices. On a biennial basis the research scientists in the DNR's Bureau of Science Services are involved in hundreds of fish and wildlife research projects and surveys that are of critical importance to Wisconsin sportsmen and women.

The research done by these scientists also provides the data critical to assure that anti-hunting, fishing and trapping groups are not successful in their challenges to hunting, fishing and trapping seasons. It was the data collected by these scientists that allowed the DNR to

successfully defend a bobcat harvest season that was challenged all the way to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The work of research scientists was also critical to the Federal US Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to restore state management of the gray wolf to the Wisconsin DNR.

Virtually all of the funding for these research scientist positions comes from funds paid by hunters, anglers and trappers into the Federal Pitman-Robertson and Sports Fishing Restoration accounts and into the state license Fish and Wildlife Account. The sportsmen and women that pay these funds want a strong and robust fish and wildlife research program in Wisconsin. This is critically important to hunting fishing and trapping in this state.

The great majority of the applied research undertaken by these scientists cannot be effectively replaced by contracting with University researchers since the cost for contracting would be significantly greater, the University does not have sufficient resources to replace the research projects undertaken by the 18.4 DNR positions and lastly, this type of research is often not undertaken by University researchers.

In conclusion, the above-listed hunting, fishing and trapping organizations respectfully request that the Legislature retain the 18.4 research scientists in the 2015-2017 state budget.

Sincerely yours,

Scott Zimmerman  
President  
Wisconsin Trappers Association

Dan Dessecker  
Director of Conservation Policy  
Ruffed Grouse Society

Don Kirby  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

Peter Gerl  
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White Tails Unlimited

Thom Gulash  
President  
Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sports Fishing Clubs

Mike Arrowood  
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Walleyes for Tomorrow

John Durben  
President  
Wisconsin Council of Sports Fishing Clubs

Bill Casper  
President  
Sturgeon for Tomorrow

Gary Lang  
President  
Wisconsin Muzzleloader Association

Dennis Hoffman  
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Wisconsin Deer Hunters Inc.

Pat Quaintance  
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Wisconsin Association of Sporting Dogs

Dave Evenson  
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