

Committee Name:
Senate Committee –
Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy
(SC–JCP)

Appointments

03hr_SC–JCP_Appt_pt00

Committee Hearings

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Committee Reports

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Clearinghouse Rules

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Executive Sessions

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Hearing Records

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Misc.

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Record of Committee Proceedings

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MILWAUKEE
COUNTY
PARK
SYSTEM

SCOTT WALKER
County Executive

SUE BLACK
Parks Director

March 3, 2004

Representative Scott Suder
69th Assembly District
Room 21 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Representative Suder,

A unique opportunity exists for the State of Wisconsin to finally make youth environmental education a priority. **Assembly Bill 910 and Senate Bill 496** make it a priority to teach our children the importance of Wisconsin's diverse natural landscapes and rich environmental legacy.

By directing the funding to go to the Natural Resources Board, it insures that the intent of this initiative will be used for youth environmental education. Such a permanent funding source would allow the focus to be on the program and teaching youth, not finding the money necessary to operate. The youth environmental education program can therefore focus and build on its successes.

As a result, the program can be used as a tool to deter future polluters, educate Wisconsin's youth on environmental issues, and promote our State's natural resources. By utilizing this program as a multi-dimension educational tool, Wisconsin will realize a return on its investment by teaching youth to be environmentally aware.

The audience for the program is the entire State of Wisconsin, from Milwaukee to Ashland. By reaching such a large number of youth and families, a return on our investment is certain. The impact is also exponential because children are not the sole beneficiaries, entire families will also be influenced. By educating youth on the value of Wisconsin's natural resources, a new era of outdoor enthusiasts will be born.

Over time, wouldn't it be wonderful if this youth program could influence the environmental consciousness of citizens to the extent that it would reduce pollution? This would inadvertently reduce the program's funding but to the benefit of improving Wisconsin's environmental health and quality of life.

For these reasons, I support **Assembly Bill 910 and Senate Bill 496**.

Sincerely,

Sue Black, Director
Milwaukee County Park System

9480 Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53226, (414) 257-6100 TTY: (414) 257-8193 Fax: (414) 257-6466
www.countyparks.com

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