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Chairman Alan Ott
Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Good morning Chair Ott and committee members. My name is Keith Warnke. I'm the Hunting and Shooting Sports Coordinator for WDNR. Thank you for the opportunity to appear today.

Wisconsin DNR has a long history of promoting safe and accessible shooting opportunities including a commitment to provide ranges on public lands and a shooting range grant program to assist in maintenance and development on private ranges in exchange for some public access.

There are estimated to be 600-900 shooting ranges in Wisconsin of which 33 are on public land owned by the state, county, or a municipality. Both public and private ranges are popular and safe with shooters contributing to many local economies around the state. The arms and ammunition industry supports about 6, 500 jobs in Wisconsin.

With an estimated 800,000 shooters in Wisconsin there is strong demand for safe quality shooting opportunities. Promoting and enhancing shooting ranges improves public safety by encouraging shooting at well-designed and maintained ranges where safety is the top priority.

If enacted, assembly bill 178 would provide security for ranges existing on July 16, 2013. This will benefit Wisconsin shooters at both public and private ranges by ensuring quality, safe shooting opportunities in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear and I'll be happy to answer any questions.