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WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

SHEILA HARSDORF

Conservation Update 2007

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Dear Outdoor Enthusiast,

With the fall gun deer hunt rapidly approaching and the bowhunting season in full swing, I would like to update you on issues important to sportsmen that are currently before the State Legislature. As a hunter and fisher, I look forward to building upon our successes in protecting our rights to hunt and fish, while maintaining accessibility and affordability to our longstanding outdoor traditions.

As you prepare to head out into the woods this fall, I encourage you to take time to enjoy our state's natural beauty and to consider our role in preserving opportunities for future generations. Please feel free to offer your feedback and input.

Sincerely,
Sheila
Sheila Harsdorf
State Senator
10th Senate District



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Protecting against invasive species

New restrictions on ballast water proposed



Senator Harsdorf has co-sponsored legislation, introduced as Senate Bill 119, seeking to place restrictions on ocean-going vessels from releasing ballast water in the Great Lakes. Large shipping vessels contribute to the growth of invasive species by releasing ballast water containing aquatic nuisance species. Destructive species such as the zebra mussel have been attributed to the release of ballast water.

Under Senate Bill 119, only vessels that do not take on ballast water or are equipped with technology that prevents the spread of invasive species would be allowed to use

Wisconsin ports. This legislation is currently before the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Wildlife Violator Compact Implementation

The two-year budget proposal currently before the State Legislature includes funding for administering the Wildlife Violator Compact. The Compact requires Wisconsin to share information with other states on violators of hunting, fishing and trapping laws and to enforce suspensions of sportsman's licenses due to violations in other states.

Allowing states to cooperate in enforcing wildlife laws is important in maintaining the integrity of our hunting and fishing traditions. Senator Harsdorf was a co-author of legislation last session to enact the Wildlife Violator Compact in Wisconsin.



Protecting Sportsmans' License Fees

Senator Harsdorf is the co-author of a bipartisan reform seeking to permanently protect hunting and fishing license fees from being used for general state budget purposes. It is frustrating to taxpayers to see funds collected for a specific purpose or program being misused for other spending.

Senate Joint Resolution 24 (SJR 24) would prevent the spending of dollars from a specific account or fund for purposes other than for the intended purpose. Since SJR 24 is a constitutional amendment, it would need to be passed by two consecutive legislatures and approved by the voters in a statewide referendum.

Senator Sheila Harsdorf: Wisconsin Toll Free: 1-800-862-1092 www.harsdorfsenate.com