



WISCONSIN Out-of-State Land Owners Association, Inc.
Box 46108, Madison, Wisconsin 53744

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 1997

Contact: Nick Kaufmann, Executive Director
Tel: (608) 277-0244
FAX: (608) 277-0243
e-mail kaufmann@madison.tdsnet.com

Items in this release:

- **OSLOs Chapters considered for Door, Vilas, and Sawyer counties**
- **4,000 Petition delivered to Natural Resources Board**
- **Part-timers seek landowner hunting preference**
- **Part-timers support license increases for Fish & Wildlife account**

OSLOs Return Early:

Early spring temperatures brings Wisconsin's out-of-state landowners to the northern areas early this year --75,000 from Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. Another 25,000 retirees return to Wisconsin from the sun-belt areas starting mid-April.

Part-Time Residents Support of Fish & Game Increases for DNR.

The Wisconsin Out-of-State Land Owners Association testified before the Joint Hearing of the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee in February supporting increases in license fees for fish & game. Pointing out that cottage owners rely on good conservation programs for their total recreational experience, Executive Director, Nick Kaufmann stated: "Wisconsin's part-time residents are sensitive to the budget crunch going on at the DNR and particularly with Fish & Wildlife programs, and while the overall issues about landowner fees hasn't gone away, a few more bucks now is not going to break the bank." Continuing to plea for new fee categories Kaufmann went on to point out that "This is the last time we'll be able to support fee-increases without some type of distinction between property-owners and tourists/day-trippers. We're not, non-residents --we're part-time residents. We add to the economic pot here in Wisconsin, we don't draw from it. A little bit of fee recognition is not going to kill our programs."

Part-timers seek Landowner Hunting Preference

As Wisconsin's Conservation Congress conducts its 72 county meetings throughout the state on the same day, April 14th, the Wisconsin Out-of-State Land Owners Association (OSLO) will introduce a resolution calling for resident hunting preference for qualified landowners. Qualified landowners, they say, are paying taxes on no less than \$10,000 of assessed land value --therefore contributing in a real way to the well-being of the state.

OSLO proposes that Wisconsin does not want to lose the good-will of part-time residents who provide food and habitat for our wildlife, and support conservancy programs. The Association's Executive Director and spokesman, Nick Kaufmann, is also calling on the Congress to consider representation of the part-time residents in the group. He adds: "One in five of this group are choosing their Wisconsin home for retirement; it will change to one in four in a few years --now's the time to enlist their cooperation for future environmental programs."

4,000 Out-of-State Landowner Petitions to Natural Resource Board

Wisconsin out-of-state landowners petition the **Natural Resources Board** and the Conservation Congress for greater representation in the goings-on of Wisconsin's conservation programs --particularly Fish & Wildlife related. Appearing at the Board's April meeting, Nick Kaufmann (Executive Director of OSLO, the Association for Out-of-State Land Owners) presented 2,200 petitions to each of the committees on behalf of its 7,000 members. "We're not here to argue for resident benefits --we're here to help the department expand programs, products and services toward the special needs of over 200,000 part-time residents ." Kaufmann goes on: "We can't hope "they" will go away and leave us alone; we're 5 million in Wisconsin surrounded by 15 million -- isn't it about time we get pro-active in our approach to them."

Out-of-State Landowners Organize on County Level

Vilas, Door and Sawyer counties are being considered the first for chartering by the statewide group called the Wisconsin Out-of-State Land Owners Association. Spokesman and Executive Director, Nick Kaufmann states: "These counties have members volunteering for leadership, and there's no question that there's a lot of potential here. We have about 1,100 members in these three counties with a potential up to 14,000. There's no question that the groups will be more effective politically and economically at a local level." Among the part-time resident issues, statewide, is securing the right to vote at local school board meetings and on local issues involving services which are paid from property taxes. "We're moving ahead on the voting issues fairly quickly and hope to see some resolution within a year or so" says Kaufmann. "In the meantime, chartering local chapters will allow the more active members to establish a dialogue at the county, town and city/village levels."

The Wisconsin Out-of-State Land Owners Association (OSLO) is a non-profit organization of over 7,000 resident and non-resident members representing the interests of over 100,000 of Wisconsin's Seasonal Resident families -- in all, upwards to 250,000 people. Research indicates that each of these part-time resident families cause between 8-12 additional people to visit Wisconsin each year --about 1 million people. The economic impact of OSLOs on Wisconsin is estimated to be well over \$3 billion annually.