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Tom Sheehan, Editor  
Delavan Enterprise  
P.O. Box 366  
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Dear Mr. Sheehan:

I'm replying to an editorial published by you on January 8th in the State News section of the *Delavan Enterprise*; by Stan Milam of the Capitol News Service. I apologize for my delay in getting to you.

Stan Milam's editorial, "Out-of-State Landowners Association fights for reduced state fee schedule" last month was really low on the facts and high on insults not befitting Wisconsin's reputation for "hospitality and patience" --as he preaches (but does not seem to practice). In less than professional journalistic fashion, Mr. Milam picked up the "sensational" aspects of the story (probably from the Milwaukee Papers) for *Delavan Enterprise* readers. With close to 10,000 out-of-state residents in Walworth County, I'm sure more than a few are readers --and more than a few were as offended by his article as I was. So here are the facts for those who are following the subject.

1. Wisconsin property owners were not denied the lottery tax credit --in fact more than a million residents more will share in it thanks to the action. Of the \$125 million being held by the state, non-residents will get between 8-12 million --hardly due all the crabbing about it. If Mr. Milam wants his credit, he should call his friends in Madison, they're the ones holding it up --not the non-residents.
2. Fish & Wildlife accounts are supported by license fees, period. Income taxes are used to pay back the Feds (everyone's money, not just Wisconsin's), fees for special license plates go for targeted programs like bringing the wolves back to Wisconsin. We're not talking "DNR", we're talking Fish & Game; there's a difference.
3. Non-residents pay MORE than their "fair share" toward the fish & wildlife account already. Accounting for 14% of all licenses sold, non-resident dollars account for 24% of the Fish & Wildlife account. Nevertheless, this Association recently testified in support of the fee increases because we feel it is in the best interest of the part-time residents (as well as full-time residents) to have properly funded programs. Mr. Milam completely misses the point:  
All out-of-state landowners are not "flatlanders." --they reside all over the U.S. Nor are they tourists --passing through for a weekend or a week. They are residents --they pay taxes, buy newspapers, and help (substantially) to support many fine Wisconsin communities who would otherwise find it their local economies harder to cope with. Perhaps the *Delavan Enterprise* business readers don't need the revenue, but other areas of Wisconsin do. It's just good business for the State to take an interest in this group by considering their contribution --and it's the right and fair thing to do.

We need less critics like Mr. Milam --building walls and burning bridges-- if we are ever to cope with the ever-increasing numbers of part-time residents. Thanks,

Nick Kaufmann, Executive Director, Wisconsin Out-of-State Land Owners Ass'n, Inc.