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## **Seasonal Residents Petition Governor** **(Seasonal Residents “Vote” for Changes)** **(Seasonal Residents Deliver 6000 Ballots to Governor)**

Wisconsin’s Seasonal Residents Association delivered 6200 ballots to the Governor’s Doyle’s office on March 25<sup>th</sup> calling for a change in the way the state deals with the state’s full-time property taxpayers –and part-time residents-- who are continued to be treated like tourists.

The statewide plebiscite was conducted in 2003 throughout the country and responses represented Seasonal Residents in most of Wisconsin’s 72 counties. Seasonal Residents agreed that something needs to be done about escalating recreational fees, a greater voice in local affairs and improved access to local and county services paid from property taxes. They have voiced their concerns in a Seasonal Residents Bill-of-Rights submitted to the Governor Doyle and are asking him to appoint a task force to examine the groups contribution to the state’s economy.

According to the association’s director, Nick Kaufmann, “While the Governor is in China drumming up business for the Wisconsin, we want to remind him to pay attention to the customers he already has –between property and sales taxes, discretionary spending, new construction, home repair, furnishings, and so forth, the average seasonal resident spends about \$9,000 per year –well over a billion every year.” Seasonal Residents are looking for recognition by policymakers as a different class of citizen separate from residents and separate from tourists. “It’s not fair that our taxes support the state forests but we have to enter them as tourists and that we support K-12 education and Technical colleges but don’t get a tuition break if their children want to attend UW say Kaufmann. Rising assessments responding to the strong recreational market continues to shift the tax burden more and more onto seasonal residents, and even the more affluent are feeling the pinch and looking for more value from their Wisconsin visits. More information on the plebiscite and seasonal resident issues check out [www.wisra.org](http://www.wisra.org).

***Wisconsin Seasonal Residents Association (formerly Wisconsin Out-of-State Land Owners) is a not-for-profit corporation representing over 10,000 members.***



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