

To: **Assembly Natural Resources Committee**
Representatives Gunderson, Moulton, Ott, Pettis, Bies, Krawczyk, M. Williams,
Petrowski, Mursau, Black, Gronemus, Steinbrink, Van Akkeren, Molepske and Hebl

From: Todd Holschbach, *Director of Government Relations*, The Nature Conservancy
Althea Dotzour, *Outreach and Policy Coordinator*, Gathering Waters Conservancy

Date: May 24, 2005

**The Nature Conservancy and Gathering Waters Conservancy
support Assembly Bill 187 relating to public access information
on Stewardship Fund lands**

The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin and Gathering Waters Conservancy support passage of AB 187 as amended and believe it will assist in informing the public of the great state treasures conserved under the bipartisan Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.

We thank Representative Friske for working with the conservation community and reaching a result that will help showcase the great lands protected and conserved under the Stewardship Fund and the many outdoor recreation opportunities available to state residents and visitors.

We look forward to a future where more Wisconsin residents utilize the unique natural areas that the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund has made available.



Wisconsin's 55 land trusts, including The Nature Conservancy, have collectively protected more than 130,000 acres of land. Nearly 30,000 of those acres were purchased with Stewardship Fund support. Wisconsin's land trusts have raised \$40 million to match the state's investment.

The Nature Conservancy currently has over 21,000 members statewide. Our mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life in Wisconsin by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Gathering Waters Conservancy, now in our 11th year, is a non-profit organization supporting the work of land trusts and promoting land protection throughout the state.