

Insider Tactic Endangers Historic Public Land Purchase

Written by Jeff Smith, State Senator District 31
Thursday, 12 January 2023 16:57 -

<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/forest-serve-s451.png>



Money for Wisconsin's Pelican River Forest conservation easements put in legislative limbo by underhanded procedural gambit in Joint Finance.

MADISON – Senator Jeff Smith (D–Brunswick) condemned obstructive maneuvers by Republican members of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) to block the largest land conservation effort in state history by employing underhanded procedural gambits to avoid even discussing the issue.

The funding, \$4 million from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, would be allocated to the Department of Natural Resources to purchase working forest conservation easements that protect northern Wisconsin's Pelican River Forest for future sustainable recreational and commercial uses. This funding would supplement \$11,384,000 already secured for the project. The land would then be re-sold in small parcels to private owners who agree to maintain public access and use sustainable forest management practices.

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