

Wisconsin County Forests Association

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March 6, 2019

Honorable Senator Tom Tiffany
Chair, Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry
Room 316 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Regarding: Appointment of Preston Cole as Secretary of WDNR

Senator Tiffany,

Please accept this testimony from Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) as part of the Thursday, March 7, 2019 Public Hearing of the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry regarding the appointment of Preston Cole as Secretary of WDNR.

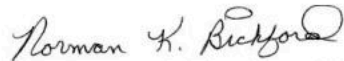
WCFA represents the forestry interests of 29 counties having forest lands enrolled under Wisconsin County Forest Law; State Statutes §28.10 and §28.11. Collectively our member counties manage nearly 2.4 million acres of land, the largest public ownership in the state.

Our county forest program benefits from a historical, unique partnership with WDNR. WCFA appreciates Preston Cole's diverse background and expansive knowledge and understanding of WDNR's internal processes. We believe Preston's experience as a field forester, his various positions within public works and utilities for the City of Milwaukee, combined with several years of service on Wisconsin's Natural Resources Board all contribute toward making him an ideal candidate to serve as Secretary of WDNR.

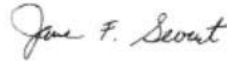
Wisconsin County Forestry & Parks Departments and WCFA work with WDNR staff across all divisions of the agency. In conversations with Preston it is clear he understands forestry and has experience working in all areas of natural resource management. WCFA believes Preston will serve the citizens of Wisconsin well in the position of WDNR Secretary.

We encourage the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry to support the appointment of Preston Cole as Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,



Norman K. Bickford, President
Wisconsin County Forests Association



Jane F. Severt, Executive Director
Wisconsin County Forests Association

Cc Governor Tony Evers

Representative Jeff Mursau, Chair, Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Recreation
Preston Cole, WDNR Secretary Nominee
Fred Souba, Wisconsin Chief State Forester
Doug Brown, WDNR County Forest Specialist