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400 Conservationists to Descend on State Capitol, Will Ask Legislators to Vote to Protect Natural Resources

Madison- Today, 400 citizens representing nearly all of Wisconsin's 132 legislative districts will meet one-on-one with their state legislators in the state Capitol. Citizens from around the state traveled to Madison to convince their legislators to protect natural resources in four key areas including protecting the Great Lakes, making Wisconsin a renewable energy leader, reauthorizing the Stewardship Fund, and an independent Department of Natural Resources Secretary.

"I am glad to be able to sit down with my legislators and talk about the importance of conservation issues like Great Lakes protection to us back in Manitowoc," said Phil Knier, a teacher who took the day off to attend Conservation Lobby Day. "It's energizing to sit among 400 other citizens who share my conservation values. I have a feeling legislators will hear our message today loud and clear."

The four Conservation Priorities for the 2007 Legislative session were decided upon after input from more than 50 conservation organizations and eight citizen listening sessions around the state. They are:

1. **Keep the Great Lakes Waters in the Great Lakes** by passing the Great Lakes Compact, which addresses pressures on water supplies and desires for diversions.
2. **Reauthorize the Stewardship Fund**, Wisconsin's premier, bi-partisan land preservation program.
3. **Restore Conservation Integrity** by passing the three components of the Hunter, Angler, Trapper Bill of Rights.
4. **Choose Clean Energy for a Bright Future** by positioning Wisconsin to be a national leader in renewable energy.

Participants of this year's Conservation Lobby Day expect it will be as successful as last year's when direct citizen lobbying played a role in the passage of the Energy Efficiency and Renewables Act in March of 2006.

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Media, if you are interested in speaking to a citizen from your area who is attending Conservation Lobby Day, please contact Anne Sayers at the contact info above. Please visit <http://conservationvoters.org/lobbyday/07> to learn more about Conservation Lobby Day 2007.

To view the issues discussed on Conservation Lobby Day, please review the *Wisconsin Conservation Priorities 2007* at

<http://www.conservationvoters.org/WLCVI/Public/index.php?custID=4>

Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to electing conservation leaders to the state legislature and encouraging lawmakers to champion conservation policies that effectively protect Wisconsin's public health and natural resources. More information can be found at www.conservationvoters.org.