

Dear Mr. Hilgenberg,

I am writing in opposition to the request for a rule change that would allow State Parks Master Plans written before 1996 to be dismissed.

As you know, this request is on the agenda for the January 24 meeting of the Natural Resources Board.

Furthermore, I understand that commentary was closed after January 19. Decisions like this must remain transparent and open to public input. The public has a right to a hearing on this rule change and warrants time to learn the issues and prepare responses. The rule change that would allow a park's master plan to be ignored would enable a private company to use State Park land. The request seems to be specifically targeted for the Kohler Andrae State Park's Master Plan, written in 1989, in order to permit a controversial golf course proposed by the Kohler Company to take public park land which was purchased with LAWCON funds. No part of this ecologically important and popular park should be sacrificed to any private development.

However, a rule change as sweeping as this one would have consequences far beyond Kohler Andrae State Park. It would open the door to further loss to private interests of treasured public lands. The DNR and the NRB must be guardians of Wisconsin's parks and public lands, protectors of the public interest and the natural environment.

I urge you to reject this and any other request that would diminish or degrade public lands. I have followed this issue for the past 6 years when Kohler first introduced their Tented Forest Project.

At that time, they were told an explicit NO to the use of any state land.

<http://www.friendsblackriverforest.org/assets/no-guest-traffic-thru-the-park.pdf>

I would also like to address your comment to the WI State Journal: "Natural Resources Board chairman Terry Hilgenberg said Wednesday that he has received dozens of emails about the course, including many from opponents, but he said he had confidence that the golf course would be responsibly designed. 'Kohler does things right,' Hilgenberg said. 'That gives me more confidence about it, but unfortunately until you see it you don't know what it will be.' "

Well, unfortunately we have seen the destruction the Kohler Company has caused to the environment. Please familiarize yourself with these situations:

1. The Super Fund Cleanup of the Sheboygan River
2. The Super Fund Cleanup of the Kohler Landfill
3. The environmental destruction and violations at Whistling Straits Golf Course

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0504973>

<http://www.sheboyganpress.com/story/news/2017/12/19/4-5-million-settlement-reached-sheboygan-river-pollution-case/956544001/>

<http://www.friendsblackriverforest.org/assets/dnr-watch-report.pdf>

You have received thousands of emails against this proposed use of State land. Wisconsin residents are outraged the DNR and the NRB would let an ecological sensitive area be destroyed AND given to a private developer. There are many articles expressing these concerns. Below are just a few:

[http://www.wiscnews.com/news/state-and-regional/article\\_483b7dd3-7828-5b6e-a1aa-38f27c1bfd35.html](http://www.wiscnews.com/news/state-and-regional/article_483b7dd3-7828-5b6e-a1aa-38f27c1bfd35.html)

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2018/01/17/dnr-approves-wetland-permit-kohlens-golf-course-sheboygan-county-lake-michigan-shoreline/1042613001/>

<https://thepoliticalenvironment.blogspot.com/2018/01/you-cant-see-forest-when-chainsawing.html?m=1>

The DNR and the NRB must be protectors of our environment.

PLEASE OPPOSE A RULE CHANGE THAT WOULD ALLOW STATE PARKS MASTER PLANS WRITTEN BEFORE 1996 TO BE DISMISSED.

Jayne Zabrowski  
Sheboygan, WI