



**Testimony of Representative Garey Bies
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism**

SB 8- Sale of Alcohol at Peninsula State Park Golf Course

Chairman Moulton, committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 8, allowing the sale of alcohol at Peninsula State Park.

Peninsula State Park has a beautiful 18-hole golf course, which is one of the most popular courses within Door County because of its reasonable green fees and beautiful scenery. Its popularity is a tribute to the hard work and commitment of the non-profit Peninsula Golf Association (PGA) which has been responsible for all operations and maintenance of the course, including all buildings on the property since 1982. The DNR leases the land to the PGA to run the course, and recently extended the lease until 2019.

When the PGA was formed, the founding board members gave \$5000 each to initially finance the course. Since then, the golf course has been fully sustainable and financially responsible for all necessary improvements, including a new irrigation system and improvements to the clubhouse facilities. No state tax dollars are allocated to the PGA for daily operations and maintenance.

Currently, DNR's administrative rules specifically prohibit the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on Peninsula State Park golf course or in the clubhouse. This bill would require the DNR to allow a person with whom the DNR contracts with for the operation of the Peninsula State Park Golf Course to sell alcoholic beverages on the course or at the clubhouse.

Other non-profits that lease state park land from the DNR have similar contracts allowing the possession and consumption of alcohol on the property. Granite Peak-Rib Mountain and Devils Lake, both popular tourist locations, have concession areas that sell wine and beer during specified operating hours.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 8. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

First for Wisconsin!

**Testimony of Kevin Jenkins, Chief of Staff to Senator Lasee
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business and Tourism**

SB 8 – Sale of Alcohol at Peninsula State Park Golf Course

Chairman Moulton and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 8 which will allow the sale of alcohol at Peninsula State Park Golf Course.

Peninsula State Park is considered to be Wisconsin's most complete state park. At this park one can bike, swim, camp, hike and even golf on one of the most scenic eighteen hole golf courses in the area. Rich in history, the golf course has been in existence since 1917. Not only is Peninsula State Park Golf Course one of the most scenic and historical golf courses in the state, it is also one of the most affordable. Since 1982, the State of Wisconsin has contracted all golf operations to the Peninsula Golf Association (PGA).

Questions that may come up include: How is the lease working? Is the course financially stable? Are any state tax dollars being used to support the course? I am pleased to report that since the lease agreement was conferred, the course has been self-sustaining, thanks in part to an initial contribution from the founding PGA board members. Recent improvements have been made to the course irrigation system and clubhouse. No state taxpayer dollars are given to the PGA for daily operations or maintenance of facility.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administrative rule NR 45.13 (10)(c) specifically prohibits the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the clubhouse and on the golf course at Peninsula State Park. This bill requires the DNR to allow a person with whom the DNR contracts for the operation of Peninsula State Park Golf Course to sell alcoholic beverages on the course and at the clubhouse. It also allows those that are of legal drinking age to consume alcoholic beverages in the clubhouse and on the golf course.

It is important to note that what I am asking for is not unique in Wisconsin. Popular tourist locations such as the Granite Peak Ski Area at Rib Mountain State Park and Devils Lake State Park have concessions, including alcohol service, that are run by non-profits based on agreements with the DNR.

This bill also creates an opportunity for job growth. The allowable sale of alcoholic beverages has the potential to create additional jobs for servers and also has the potential to create additional revenue for the PGA, thereby strengthening the long-term viability of the PGA and the Peninsula State Park Golf Course.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I will now take any questions that you may have.