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STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony on Senate Bill 435
Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry
Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing testimony on Senate Bill 435 this afternoon.

State law currently prohibits the purchase, sale, or trade of various nonedible wild animal parts, including the feathers of a legally harvested game bird. Generally as a result, individuals are constrained to discarding these feathers during or shortly after the field dressing process, thus preventing further legitimate use of wild game bird feathers.

Keeping with Wisconsin's tradition of sustainable hunting, I have authored this bill on the behalf of various outdoorsmen to allow individuals to sell, purchase or trade the naturally shed feathers and the feathers of lawfully taken wild game birds. There are many uses for these feathers, but this legislation was intended to allow for the use of wild turkey feathers as arrow fletching. Many outdoorsmen and outfitters prefer the natural and more reliable qualities that turkey feathers add to their arrows. This bill would make them easier to obtain.

This bill would also allow for other individuals and businesses to make transactions of these wild game bird feathers for use by florists, naturalists, or crafters seeking use of these natural resources.

This is a fairly simple bill, and I would encourage your support.

Thank you again for hearing my testimony and I would gladly take any questions the committee may have.