SPORTING COALITION for STEWARDSHIP

Ducks Unlimited · Pheasant Forever & Quail Forever · National Wild Turkey Federation · Wisconsin Waterfowl Association · Safari Club International · Delta Waterfowl · Wisconsin Trappers Association · Wisconsin Trout Unlimited · Wisconsin Wildlife Federation · Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation · Audubon Great Lakes · Ruffed Grouse Society / American Woodcock Society · Boone and Crockett Club

To: Wisconsin Legislators

Dt: June 6, 2025

Re: LRB-0036/LRB-3557 – Proposed Changes to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

The Sporting Coalition for Stewardship is a group of more than a dozen major conservation organizations representing hunters, anglers, and trappers from across Wisconsin. Our members are actively engaged in Wisconsin's rich sporting heritage - hunting, fishing and trapping on our public lands and providing time and resources to fuel conservation efforts across the state.

Continuing that rich sporting heritage is extremely important to us. We need to ensure that we continue to provide access and opportunities to the hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women who take advantage of our public lands each year. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has been instrumental in providing more access and opportunities for our hunters, anglers and trappers in Wisconsin, and for the last year, our coalition has been working to ensure that Wisconsin's premier land conservation program will continue.

That is why we applaud the work done by Representative Tony Kurtz and Senator Pat Testin to provide updates to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and support the framework laid out in LRB-0036/LRB-3557.

This proposed legislation will allow much needed improvements to be made to our existing public lands, while also ensuring that a useable program will continue with input from both the legislative and executive branches.

For more than thirty years, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has helped provide more access and opportunities for Wisconsin's hunters, anglers, and trappers, and we are extremely pleased that members of the legislature are working to ensure that this continues.

We would appreciate your support for this proposal and ask that you sign on as a co-sponsor to help ensure that the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program can continue delivering for Wisconsin's hunters, anglers, trappers and all who enjoy the outdoors.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact George Ermert (414-405-0838 or george@sgrwi.com) or Nicole Burns (608-438-4612 or nicole@sgrwi.com)