

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

June 9, 2009

Press Release

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Applauds the Senate for Its Strong Support for the Hunting Mentor Bill

Poynette: Today, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation strongly applauded the Wisconsin State Senate for its support of Senate Bill 167, establishing a hunter mentoring program in the state. The Federation is comprised of 168 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry-related conservation groups located throughout the state. The bill passed the Senate on a strong bipartisan 27-6 vote. The bill was cosponsored by Senator Jim Holperin (Conover), Representative Ann Hraychuck (Amery), and Representative Scott Gunderson (Waterford).

“This bill provides anyone from the age of 10 through adulthood an easy method to become involved in hunting in Wisconsin,” stated Jack Nissen, (Dousmann), President of the Wildlife Federation. “The legislation sets out extensive safety precautions which will insure that the hunting experience of both the student and the mentor will be safe and enjoyable.

“It has become increasingly more difficult for young and old alike to become involved in the important tradition of hunting throughout the country including Wisconsin,” indicated Ralph Fritsch, Chair WWF Wildlife Committee. “This bill will assist in keeping the hunting tradition in Wisconsin strong and insure that the state has sufficient hunters to manage the state’s very important wildlife resources.”

The law requires that the hunting mentor must be over the age of 18 and have had hunter education instruction if they were born after January 1, 1973. The student must be in arms reach of the mentor and there may only be one firearm between the student and the mentor. The student and mentor must have a state hunting license.

The bill also restores the right of someone under the age of 12 to possess and shoot a firearm in target practice if accompanied by someone 18 years or older and if that person has been designated by the youth’s parent or guardian.

The Wildlife Federation is dedication to conservation education and the advancement of sound conservation policies. The Federation is a member of the National Wildlife Federation and is celebrating its 60th year, having been founded in 1949.