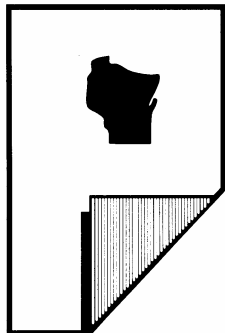


# WISCONSIN PAPER COUNCIL

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **PAPER COUNCIL URGES USFS, DNR TO DISCUSS FRISKE PROPOSAL**

NEENAH – The Wisconsin Paper Council is urging the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Natural Resources to initiate discussions regarding a forestry proposal by Representative Donald Friske (R-Merrill).

In a letter to the state representative, the Paper Council calls his plan an “innovative approach” to forest management.

Friske’s plan would transfer management responsibility for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in northern Wisconsin from the Forest Service to the DNR. Described as a pilot program, the transfer would include budget and personnel for the 1.6 million acre forest for a 25-year period.

Friske’s proposal to the Office of Inter Government Affairs in the White House has been endorsed by 24 other state legislators.

The Paper Council’s letter notes the strong reputation the Wisconsin DNR has in sustainable, productive forest management. The letter concludes: “Consequently, we believe that the appropriate federal and state officials, with the cooperative participation of federal forest stakeholders, should explore this proposal in a forthright, dispassionate and timely manner.”

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NOTE TO EDITOR: Copy of June 30, 2004, letter from Wisconsin Paper Council to Representative Friske is included with this transmission.