



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
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April 3, 2004

Rest Lake Dam Committee
PO Box 267
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

Subject: Letter of support

Dear Committee Members:

I would like to introduce myself to the Rest Lake Dam Committee. My Name is John Gozdziwski and I have recently been appointed Regional Director for the Northern Region. Prior to that I was Northern Regions Water Leader, overseeing work in the fisheries and water programs. I have been following the work the committee is doing.

I want to assure you that I support the work. Jim Kreitlow has briefed me over the last year concerning the resource issues surrounding the operation of the Rest Lake Dam. I support the process Jim is using to involve the stakeholders in trying to balance or compromise between upstream and downstream concerns. I too support a positive and open working relationship. From my discussions with Jim, the initial meetings have been good and the element of trust and openness is evident.

Decisions related to this project will be made at the regional level. Advice from other experts around the state will be sought as needed. Our central office staff (including the secretary's office) in Madison will provide oversight for legal and policy issues to assure consistency and compliance with administrative codes and state law. Jim will continue to brief me concerning the project. I certainly hope that the department, committee and the various user groups develop a final decision surrounding the operation of the Rest Lake Dam. These decisions are never easy, but it looks like you are well on your way by engaging the groups needed to work through the issues.

I look forward to hearing more. If time permits, I will try to attend a future meeting. If you have any questions please call me at 715-635-4002

Sincerely

John Gozdziwski
Regional Director