



## STATEMENT BY WRA PRESIDENT BILL MALKASIAN

November 11, 2005

The DNR says REALTORS are not telling the truth about new restrictions the department is proposing that could negatively impact tens of thousands of piers in Wisconsin. Instead of attacking the messenger, the DNR should stick to the facts.

Under these proposed rules, any pier in Wisconsin could be deemed illegal and require a special permit to remain if it meets **any** of the following criteria:

- The pier is greater than 6-feet-wide (NR 326.22(2)(f));
- The pier extends beyond the 3-foot water depth level or extends to water that is deeper than necessary to moor a boat (NR 326.22(2)(e));
- The pier that has more than 2 boat slips for the first 50 feet of the water frontage plus 1 additional boat slip for each additional 50 feet of water frontage (NR 326.22(2)(g));
- The pier is located in “sensitive areas” (determined by the DNR) (NR 326.22(2)(a));
- The pier has a deck located at the end of the pier that is greater than 120 sq. feet (added by NR Board)

There is one simple way for the public to decide who is telling the truth and who isn't – simply read the proposed rules. A link to the rules can be found on the Wisconsin Homeowners Alliance website at [www.homeownersalliance.org](http://www.homeownersalliance.org).

Our position is simple:

- REALTORS and the property owners they represent support reasonable regulations of piers and property. Protecting the environment, preserving wildlife, and enhancing our water resources is critical to maintaining Wisconsin's high quality of life, improving our economy and protecting our property values.
- That's why we have supported and continue to support sound planning, zoning and environmental regulations that respect the interests of property owners.
- However, it is fundamentally unfair to create new regulatory standards and apply them retroactively to existing piers that were lawful when they were placed.
- Grandfathering all existing piers is the only fair way to advance new pier regulations, similar to the past policies the state adopted regarding existing boathouses and other structures when new shoreland zoning and setback rules were enacted.

(For further information, contact Tom Larson at 608-241-2047)

