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that security and liberty may prosper together."

- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

# YOURVIEWS

4/14/09

## Reading police needed?

I understand completely how some parents may find some books inappropriate for their children. I am tired of those people thinking that they have the right to "save all children" and have books moved - based on their own beliefs. If another group decides that they don't like political books - or religious books - do they get to move or remove those books also? Where does this end?

We are lucky. We live in a country where people are free to read the books of their choosing. And, we are also very lucky that people have the right to dispute the value of certain books. But, each and every time someone succeeds in either having something moved, removed or changed - based on *their own* beliefs - we, as a country, community and individual, lose another of our rights.

All the time and energy that has been devoted to this topic by certain parents would have been much better spent talking with their own children and maybe reading these books as a family and discussing them - rather than trying to have them hidden from view for the sake of the children. A better approach to any controversial subject is discussion - not hiding it - or ignoring it - or trying to have it removed.

We as Americans have rights. Rights that I do not want to lose or have altered, in any way, because someone doesn't agree with them. You are parents and you have rights as well as obligations. You have the right to accompany your children to the library and make sure they read only materials that you believe appropriate. You have an obligation to raise your child with American values - one of which is Americans have the right to choose - and other people cannot take that right away from you - simply because they don't agree with it.

Marg Rettler  
West Bend

## 'Working Lands' needs support

The Joint Finance Committee has recently concluded a series of public hearings concerning the entire state budget. Several of the budget items address the recommendations of the Working Lands Initiative and need to be retained as proposed in Gov. Doyle's budget.

One important budget provision is for the updating of the current Farmland Preservation Program. The Farmland Preservation program was established in the 1970's and is long overdue for revisions.

The Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) grant program with funding of \$12 million is another extremely important provision. The PACE fund would provide a cost-sharing spark to initiate voluntary farm-land protection between local governments,

non-profit conservation organizations and willing sellers. Similar programs to PACE, which include Purchase of Development Rights have been operating very successfully for year in many eastern states. In Sheboygan County, a program on the north branch of the Milwaukee River utilizes voluntary easements from willing sellers and has been well received with local farmers.

It is also important for Wisconsin to have large unfragmented areas that are devoted to farming. Large tracts allow for more efficient farming with less conflict. The inclusion of Voluntary Enterprise Areas under the budget will help to address the loss of contiguous farms and forested areas. In much the same way businesses are often encouraged to develop in designated areas, farmers too, need tax credits and incentives to keep contiguous productive working lands intact.

Wisconsin agricultural and forested lands add numerous benefits to our state. In a time when change is rapid, there is a need for new and innovative policies that help to insure the economic viability of those lands. I encourage the Joint Finance Committee to retain and support the Working Lands Initiative within the 2009-2011 proposed state budget.

Bob Retko  
Town of Jackson

## TOWRITE

The Daily News welcomes letters to the editor. We require letters be no more than 300 words, legibly written or typed, that the author sign the letter and that a telephone number and address be included where the author can be reached. Only letters including the name of the writer will be published. Letter writers are limited to one letter per month. We reserve the right to edit for length, libel and content in poor taste. Letters should be mailed to 100 S. Sixth Ave., West Bend 53095, faxed to 262-338-1984 or e-mailed to [dailynewseditorial@conley.net](mailto:dailynewseditorial@conley.net).

## Today's Inspiration

*"Die when I may, I want it said  
by those who knew me best  
that I always plucked a thistle  
and planted a flower where  
I thought a flower would grow."*

- Abraham Lincoln

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