



# House Committee on Agriculture

Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman

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## Statement of Chairman Bob Goodlatte Committee on Agriculture

Business Meeting to consider H.R. 4559, to provide for the conveyance of certain National Forest System Lands to the towns of Laona and Wabeno, Wisconsin  
September 21, 2006

This bill simply provides the Forest Service with the required legislative authority to sell two tracts in Wisconsin to the neighboring towns for a set price, which the Forest Service and the towns agree represents fair market value.

One tract covers 176 acres and will be sold for \$300,000 to the town of Laona. The other tract is a 173 acre area in the town of Wabeno, for \$320,000. The proceeds of these sales will be used by the Forest Service to acquire other, higher priority lands in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

The effort here is to help these towns with economic development by purchasing these tracts, which are closer to town, and allow the Forest Service to acquire more sensitive lands that have higher natural resource value.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute eliminates a second section providing Forest Service with authority to sell two other tracts. Apparently the Forest Service had some concerns with that section, so we removed it. Also, the bill as introduced did not provide for the disposition of the proceeds from the sale, the amendment directs them to be deposited in the Sisk Act fund for land acquisition in Wisconsin.

CBO advises us that the bill has no impact on direct spending.

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