
REMARKS BY GOVERNOR TOMMY THOMPSON
STATE PURCHASE OF TURTLE-FLAMBEAU FLOWAGE
August 25, 1990

"ONE OF WISCONSIN'S CROWN JEWELS" ... "A NATURE LOVER'S JULIET."
THESE ARE THE DESCRIPTIONS THAT THIS MAGNIFICENT TERRITORY HAS
EVOKED IN VARIOUS OBSERVERS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

SEEING IT NOW, AND ESPECIALLY AFTER THAT CANOE TRIP ON THE
FLAMBEAU, I DON'T BELIEVE THEY ARE ADEQUATE. NO DESCRIPTION IS
ADEQUATE TO CONVEY THE BEAUTY AND MAGNIFICENCE OF THESE TREES,
THESE LAKES, THIS WILDLIFE.

THE ONLY SUFFICIENT RESPONSE TO IT IS TO PRESERVE IT FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS ... SO THAT THEY DO NOT NEED TO RELY ON DESCRIPTIONS.

THAT IS WHY WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY, AND IT IS ONE OF MY
PROUDEST AND HAPPIEST MOMENTS AS GOVERNOR TO BE ABLE TO SIGN
THE DOCUMENT THAT DOES THAT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WITH THIS ACQUISITION WE HERALD YET AGAIN
OUR DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THAT THE FUTURE WISCONSIN IS AS
BEAUTIFUL AS THE PRESENT.

WE ANNOUNCE ONCE AGAIN THAT WE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THE NATURAL RESOURCES WE ARE BLESSED
WITH.

WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT NO SHORT-TERM INTEREST WILL PREVENT US
FROM PROTECTING THOSE SPECIAL, IRREPLACEABLE DOMINIONS OF
NATURE.

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THE TURTLE-FLAMBEAU HAS BECOME A REFUGE FOR WILDLIFE THAT IS
NOT MAKING IT ELSEWHERE. EAGLES ... OSPREYS ... EVEN THE RARE MERLIN
FALCON ... ARE NESTING HERE.

MOOSE AND TIMBER WOLF HAVE BEEN SPOTTED, AND THE CALL OF THE

LOON CAN BE HEARD HERE.

THEY HAVE BECOME OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND A PART OF OUR HERITAGE.

THE TURTLE-FLAMBEAU IS ALSO A REFUGE FOR SPORTSMEN AND ALL OF US WHO LOVE THE UNSPOILED OUTDOORS.

150 ISLANDS ... OVER 11,000 FLOWED ACRES ... 12,000 ACRES OF WOODLAND AND WETLAND. FOR BOATERS, FOR CAMPERS, FOR EXPLORERS OF EVERY VARIETY.

A FISHERMEN'S PARADISE, THE FLOWAGE IS HOME TO WALLEYE AND MUSKY AND NORTHERN PIKE IN ABUNDANCE - PRESENTING ITS OWN CHALLENGES AND REWARDS TO ANGLERS SEEKING TO MASTER ITS MYSTERIES.

THEY TOO ARE PART OF TURTLE-FLAMBEAU, AND BY PURCHASING IT WE ENSURE THAT THE REGION WILL BE THERE FOR THEM IN THE FUTURE.

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BEFORE I CONCLUDE, I WANT TO THANK THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE MAINTAINED THIS AREA BEFORE US.

THE PEOPLE OF THE TURTLE-FLAMBEAU FLOWAGE -- YOU WHO ARE HERE TODAY -- FOR YOU SYMBOLIZE THE COMMITMENT OF WISCONSIN'S PEOPLE ... CITIZENS WHO ARE STEWARDS OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

ON BEHALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE, IN WISCONSIN TODAY AND GENERATIONS TO COME, I APPLAUD YOU ALL AND RECOGNIZE THE EFFORTS OF THE CHIPPEWA AND FLAMBEAU IMPROVEMENT COMPANY, THE MANY NEARBY LANDOWNERS, AND THE PEOPLE OF IRON COUNTY FOR WATCHING OVER THIS SPECIAL PLACE.

INDEED, IT IS A SPECIAL PLACE. AND THIS IS A SPECIAL DAY ... FOR ME AS GOVERNOR AND FOR ALL OF US AS CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN.

THE STATE'S ACTION TO PROTECT THE TURTLE-FLAMBEAU FLOWAGE IS ONE OF WISCONSIN'S MOST IMPORTANT CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BY THIS ACQUISITION WE ENSURE THAT ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PARTS OF OUR STATES SHALL BE HERE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN - TO PRESERVE ... TO HONOR ... AND TO CHERISH.

Source: Marquette University Libraries; Tommy G. Thompson Collection; Series 2:
Gubernatorial Speeches