

Hello,

I wrote the Madravenspeak living wildlife column for The Capital Times newspaper for nine years.

I am writing against any development of wetlands - specifically the Oaktree development.

"It is estimated that, on average, over 60 acres of wetlands have been lost every hour in the lower 48 states during the past two hundred years."

Wisconsin has been a particularly abusive state, destroying beavers without limit in the most cruel traps invented - the conibear traps and steel jaw traps. I served on the trapping committee of the Conservation Congress and watched a presentation by the DNR proud of dynamiting out beaver dams on thousands of miles of so-called "trout streams." Beavers CREATE habitat for HALF of the rare and endangered species on earth - and that is in enhancing wetlands. They do not harm trout - they are not warming the waters. And where there is any flooding that is unwanted by short-sighted humans - a large PVC pipe run through the bottom of the beaver dam lets water flow through without beaver disruption.

With 60% of mammals on earth livestock for slaughter, 36% of mammals humans destroying every other life form and natural habitat, and only 4% all the WILD mammals left on earth from mice to fast extinguishing elephants, tigers, wolves and bears...we are in such trouble that even the Vatican (hardly your animal rights organization) met in February of 2017 and declared biodiversity destruction co-equal to climate heat a THREAT TO HUMAN SURVIVAL. And a threat to all fellow mortals that give us life, and their survival.

Expect more pandemics as we gut the web of life.

A million species are going extinct right now, because of our bad choices. That is HALF of the species we have identified on earth. They go and we go with them because the rest of life cannot find what it needs in the interdependence of life on earth to survive. Ecosystems are in collapse as we wantonly destroy habitat, deforest for cattle grazing, and log and mine and kill wildlife for heads on walls and fun. Trap mercilessly for a few dollars. Teach kids that killing our last wildlife is fun so that hunters and trappers can continue to rule our public lands for wiping out wildlife. Watch as the state has gone epidemic with lyme disease because hunters use an agricultural model on inflating the herd - kill the bucks for heads on walls and leave the does to inflate the herd to 1.8 million unlucky targets. Deer and the proliferation of mice are the main carriers of the lyme disease ticks (kill the coyotes, trap the foxes and bobcats, want to kill our keystone wolves).

I tell you this for context. We cannot continue to destroy the last habitat of the web of life and expect that the world will keep us healthy. The pandemic is a zoonotic disease (from wildlife) as we ravage the last habitat of wildlife, bringing wildlife in contact with vastly abused millions of factory farmed animals in China and here and all over the world. It is a recipe for sickness and that karma has worldwide ramifications.

So your decision about this last wild space for wild life - is an important one. STEP BY STEP we are destroying the world of life that supports us.

And to give you further context, the oceans are predicted to warm 7 - 11 times faster in this century because they have already absorbed most of the carbon we

have spewed into the atmosphere. The oceans have acidified 30% in the past 50 years - and plasticized so that nanoplastics are more prevalent in our oceans than plankton, a primary food for ocean beings.

Animal agriculture is HALF of the cause of climate change so as you develop the last habitat - realize that agriculture has destroyed most of the habitat, the water systems, the health through toxic poisons of our lands and wildlife.

This cannot continue. We must stop it now. It is too late but now is all we have.

Please consider the above in your human priorities. We have little time to restore this earth for our health and a living future.

Thank you for your time.

For a living, humane, plant-based world,

**Patricia Randolph
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