

Honorary Membership 2014

Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Congressman Tom Petri (WI-6th)

Nominee's Address: 2462 Rayburn House Office Building

City/State/Zip: Washington, DC 20515-0505

Phone: (202) 225-1784

Nominator: Vice President of Communications Pamela Linn, ASLA

Tom Petri represents Wisconsin's 6th Congressional District and is serving his 18th term in the U.S. House of Representatives. First elected in April 1979, Petri has been returned to office every two years since. He is a current member of both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Committee on Education and the Workforce (formerly Education and Labor). Petri is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which has jurisdiction over all national surface transportation policy, construction and improvement of highway and transit facilities, implementation of safety and research programs, and regulation of commercial motor vehicle operations.

Congressman Petri has stated that "our nation's infrastructure (roads, bridges, airports, rail, water) is the backbone of our economy -- and it is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Without a first-class, multi-modal transportation network, our economy will suffer and our global competitiveness will be threatened. Our level of investment has fallen to dangerously low levels when compared to the need to do vital maintenance and new projects to meet today's problems."

Congressman Petri has also been a long-time supporter of active transportation programs, including the Transportation Enhancements (currently Transportation Alternatives Program), Safe Routes to School, and particularly the Recreational Trails Program. During recent congressional consideration of MAP-21, Congressman Petri vigorously fought his Republican colleagues on the T&I Committee to save active transportation programs. Petri may be credited for single-handedly saving the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) program in the final surface transportation law.

Throughout his career, Rep. Petri has been a strong supporter of legislation to protect the environment and encourage conservation practices. He opposed efforts to drill for oil and natural gas in national monuments and in the Great Lakes. He also opposes drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Furthermore, Rep. Petri has cosponsored many bills that would provide sensible environmental protection, promote the cleanup of contaminated lands, enable small communities to comply with federal environmental requirements, and provide for better research and response into environmental problems. Rep. Petri has taken the lead on a number of environmental issues, including opposition to environmentally damaging Auburn Dam that would have destroyed a canyon along the American River in California. He is happy to say that, with the help of some of his friends, Congress was successful in finally stopping the Auburn Dam after a ten year battle. He also has consistently voted to maintain the roadless rule in the Tongass National Forest in order to preserve one of the last remaining pristine forests in America. He is also the author of legislation to establish the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway National Heritage Area.

Congressman Petri is also a strong advocate on behalf of small businesses. Over many years, he has repeatedly been named a "Guardian of Small Business" by the National Federation of Independent Business.

Prior to becoming a member of Congress, Congressman Petri worked in the White House as Director of Crime Studies for President Nixon's Advisory Council on Executive Reorganization (also known as the "Ash Council"), was Executive Director of the [Ripon Society](#), and served in Somalia first with the Peace Corps and then with the United States Agency for International Development. He earned degrees from Harvard College and Harvard Law School.



WISCONSIN
BIKE FED

Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin
3618 W. Pierce Street, Suite 250, Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-431-1798 WisconsinBikeFed.org

December 19, 2013

Honorary Membership Selection Committee
Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear ASLA Honorary Membership Selection Committee,

I am writing in support of the nomination of United States Representative Tom Petri for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects on behalf of the Wisconsin Bike Fed, a non-profit that is dedicated to improving bicycling in Wisconsin.

Representative Petri has supported legislation that is important to our organization. He has been especially supportive of efforts to champion safety for all road users despite intense pressure from House leadership to oppose basic safety funding for pedestrians and bicyclists. Petri was one of three Republicans who withstood major pressure from the chairman and leadership and turned down deals rather than give up support for cycling and other transportation enhancements.

These measures demonstrate Representative Petri's commitment to bicycling and transportation issues that are important to not only our organization, but also landscape architects and millions of Americans across the country. For these reasons, I support the nomination of Representative Petri for honorary membership to the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,



Dave Cieslewicz
Executive Director



Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association

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March 25, 2013

Honorary Membership Selection Committee
The American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear ASLA Honorary Membership Selection Committee:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association, a non-profit membership association representing over 2,400 professionals and organizations in the aquatics, natural resources, parks and recreation industry, please accept my deepest support to have Representative Tom Petri inducted as a honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Representative Petri has been selected as the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association's distinguished Elected Official Award for his strong support of legislative and funding initiatives for community park and recreation agencies, and in particular the Land and Water Conservation Fund Stateside Assistance Program, as well as receiving the Congressional Award by our affiliate organization, the National Recreation and Park Association for his tireless efforts on the federal level to advance parks and recreation.

Representative Petri has an incredible track record of supporting community park and recreation services, including support for pedestrian and bike trails, conservation efforts, and funding to assist local units of government with developing needed facility development and enhancements, such as community centers, aquatic facilities, athletic fields, all-purpose trails, and many additional community services that have impacted our youth, adults and senior citizens.

I cannot think of another individual who deserves this honor more than Representative Petri!

Sincerely,

Steven J. Thompson, CEO

Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association, Inc.

Chairperson-National Recreation and Park Association

WE CREATE COMMUNITY THROUGH PEOPLE, PARKS AND PROGRAMS

AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION