Most in his party didn't like the stand he took on a mining bill this year, but Richland Center republican state senator Dale Schultz has been awarded for that stand. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has given Schultz and two others the group's Conservationist of the Year Award for sticking by their principles to block a mining bill in the state despite political pressure to do otherwise.

Schultz says he's honored by the award. And the criticism from within his own party? Part of the game of politics, he says.