



JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kitchens Applauds Removal of DNR Board Changes from State Budget

Madison – Representative Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) today applauded the Joint Finance Committee for their decision to remove all non-fiscal policy items from the biennial state budget, including proposed changes to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Board.

“It is encouraging to see that the Finance Committee is removing all non-fiscal policy items from the state budget,” Rep. Kitchens said. “They did not belong in there in the first place, and I have heard from many of my constituents who are very opposed to them, especially the proposed changes to the DNR Board.”

The now-removed proposed change would have turned the DNR Board into an advisory council, effectively eliminating the rule-making and policymaking powers of the Board.

“The DNR is an incredibly important agency in Wisconsin and even more so in my district.” Rep. Kitchens said, “To see them lose their policymaking ability and only serve in an advisory capacity would have been detrimental to our rural populations.”

Other non-fiscal items that have been stricken from the budget include proposed changes to the DATCP Board as well as a switch to county assessments for property taxation.

“My constituents have made their priorities clear,” Rep. Kitchens said. “Thanks to them contacting my office, I was able to help influence the Finance Committee and get these items out of the budget.”

The Joint Finance Committee began holding executive sessions on the budget this week.

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