



JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Representative Joel Kitchens

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608-266-5350

Joint Finance Committee Votes to Restore Funding to the Wisconsin Fund

Madison – State Representative Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) applauded the Joint Committee on Finance yesterday after they voted to restore funding to the Wisconsin Fund, which is used by low-income households and small businesses to repair or replace failing private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS).

“It is great to hear that the Joint Finance Committee restored funding to the POWTS grant program,” Rep. Kitchens said. “The Wisconsin Fund is utilized by many people in my district, the majority of whom are elderly and living on a fixed income. Without this grant, they would have no realistic way to replace their septic systems.”

Since 1987, in Door County alone, the Wisconsin Fund has been used to assist nearly 1,000 property owners by distributing approximately \$2.9 million for replacement of POWTS.

“Failing POWTS have contributed directly to contamination of drinking water in the First District,” explained Rep. Kitchens. “That is why I authored a budget motion requesting that funding be restored to the Wisconsin Fund as soon as I saw that the Governor’s budget proposal had removed it.”

Governor Walker’s budget proposed moving POWTS from the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to the Department of Natural Resources. Yesterday’s vote maintains that the POWTS program will remain with DSPS. Furthermore, the Finance Committee’s unanimous vote restored funding for the program on an ongoing basis.

“I was contacted by dozens of my constituents who expressed to me their dependence on the Wisconsin Fund,” Rep. Kitchens said. “Their input was crucial in strengthening my budget motion, so I would like to thank them for reaching out to my office. They played a large role in ultimately seeing funding for the POWTS grant restored.”

After the Joint Finance Committee finishes making modifications to the budget, it will move to the full Legislature for a vote.

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