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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **Contact: Representative Rob Swearingen** February 22, 2024 (608) 266-7141

Statewide PFAS Aid Passes Assembly Floor Governor Evers Vows to Veto

Madison, WI – Representative Rob Swearingen (R – Rhinelander) released the following statement after the Wisconsin State Assembly took action on Senate Bill 312— a comprehensive bill aimed at tackling the pervasive threat of PFAS contamination in Wisconsin.

"These chemicals are not going anywhere; in fact, without proactive state-level efforts, they are likely to become even more prevalent," remarked Rep. Swearingen, emphasizing the urgency of the situation. "Our communities like Rhinelander and the Town of Stella cannot afford to ignore the growing risks posed by PFAS contamination, and today's legislative action gives Governor Evers the ability to safeguard public health.

Today's passage of the bill marks a significant breakthrough. SB 312 provides the guidelines for releasing \$125 million allocated in the budget for PFAS cleanup. "The creation of a dedicated fund demonstrated our commitment to providing tangible support to affected communities and implementing common-sense regulations to combat PFAS contamination," Rep. Swearingen affirmed.

The communities that I represent fully support this bill and I know the overwhelming majority of communities throughout the state do too. We must prioritize the needs of innocent landowners and frontline communities over partisan agendas.

It is frankly sad that Governor Evers has already stated he will not sign this legislation into law. Today, on the Assembly floor, I called on the Governor to put aside his political agenda and sign Senate Bill 312. I sincerely hope he doesn't choose to turn his back on the Northwoods yet again."

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Representative Swearingen represents the 34th Assembly District, which includes the Northwoods counties of Oneida and Vilas.