



# KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Van Roy Says Cormorant Bill Flies Through Senate

**MADISON** – Rep. Karl Van Roy (R-Howard) announced that Assembly Bill 486 passed the State Senate Tuesday on a vote of 30-3. The bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to work with federal agencies to control cormorant populations in Green Bay.

“These birds are a menace to our fishermen, our sportsmen, and to the health of our environment,” said Van Roy. “Controlling our cormorant population means healthier habitats in Green Bay, a vital fishing industry, and improved eco-tourism. AB 486 represents one of those truly unique bills that helps both our economy and our environment at the same time.”

Cormorants are a long-lived water bird with voracious appetites. It takes only six cormorant nests to consume approximately one-ton of fish each year. With more than 750,000 cormorants in the Great Lakes Basin, and more than 2,000 nests on Cat Island in Green Bay alone, it is not difficult to see why the birds have had a disastrous affect on the area’s fish and wildlife. Because the birds’ excrement is highly toxic, cormorants also destroy entire islands in the bay, annihilating the habitats of other species like the Great White Egret, herons and the Yellow Perch.

“I deeply appreciate Sen. Alan Lasee’s hard work to pass this bill in the Senate,” said Van Roy. “He was a wonderful partner to have in the other chamber, and I am pleased that we were able to advance this bill which is so important to our constituents in and around Green Bay.”

Every Great Lakes state and Canadian province except Wisconsin has taken action to control its cormorant population. The problem is so severe that even the federal government has taken action, as the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service issued a depredation order granting the Departments of Natural Resources in 24 states the authority to institute cormorant control and management programs. Unfortunately, Wisconsin’s DNR has been slow to respond.

“With a cormorant population that grows at 29 percent each year, Wisconsin must act to address this problem,” said Rep. Garey Bies (R-Sister Bay), a co-sponsor of the bill who also worked hard to garner its passage. “Fishermen in Door County are depending on us to make sure Wisconsin does the right thing.”

“Anybody who’s been out on Green Bay knows these birds are a major problem,” added Van Roy. “The local support for tackling this issue is overwhelming.”

AB 486 now moves to the Governor’s office to be signed into law.

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