



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Deb Andraca**

23RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

BAYSIDE FOX POINT GRAFTON MEQUON THIENSVILLE WHITEFISH BAY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Rep. Deb Andraca Joins Advocates to Promote Resilience for Wisconsin's Shores**

MADISON, Wis. -- More severe storms driven by climate change are putting the Great Lakes at risk, and urgent action is needed to prevent irreparable harm. This was the message from a group of conservation and legislative leaders who gathered yesterday to discuss the "[Rising Waters](#)" report, which identifies high-priority toxic risks to the Great Lakes, including three in Wisconsin.

According to the report by the Environmental Policy Center, the Great Lakes region's shoreline communities have already spent \$878 million in just the past two years on damages from extreme weather events, and estimates predict the total could reach over \$2 billion in the next five years.

"Protecting Lake Michigan and lakeshore property from catastrophic damage has never been more urgent," said State Representative Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay). "Lake Michigan is the source of the water we drink, the places we love, and the driver behind billions of dollars in Wisconsin's economy. We can't afford to ignore these risks to our coastline."

Wisconsin communities have been hit hard by the high costs of damage from heavier storms:

- In January 2020, the Milwaukee County shoreline sustained \$10.6 million in damages from a winter storm, upending portions of the Oak Leaf Trail, bluff erosion, and significant damage to public infrastructure
- The same 2020 storm caused \$30 million in damages across Milwaukee, Kenosha and Racine counties, according to FEMA estimates
- At the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, requests for "emergency self-certifications" – a temporary DNR permit to protect homes or other structures facing imminent danger from accelerating erosion – soared more than 830% from fewer than 30 applications in 2018.





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Rep. Andraca and Rep. Tip McGuire (D-Kenosha) introduced [AB 779](#), the Great Lakes Erosion Control Revolving Loan program, which would help homeowners and municipalities invest in coastal resiliency. The bill was never given a public hearing. The measure was also included in Governor Evers' 2021-23 budget, but was removed by legislative Republicans.

The media event held via Zoom included representatives from Clean Wisconsin, Climate Change Coalition of Door County, Environmental Law and Policy Center, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Milwaukee Water Commons, and the National Wildlife Federation.

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