



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

June 24, 2013

Governor Scott Walker  
Room 115 East  
State Capitol

*HAND DELIVERED*

Dear Governor Walker:

We are writing to express our deep concern with the budget bill provision relating to challenging high capacity well permits based on the cumulative environmental impact of that well and other existing wells. We respectfully request that you veto this budget provision in order to provide an opportunity for a more thorough public debate of this controversial proposal.

Since this provision was inserted in the budget on May 21<sup>st</sup>, we have heard from numerous central and western Wisconsin residents who are concerned about the potential impact on groundwater levels in their communities. Depleted groundwater levels can have far-reaching and long-term implications for businesses, homeowners, outdoor enthusiasts, and municipalities that rely on those water sources.

Continued demand for groundwater is putting increased pressure on this valuable and finite resource. With lake levels continuing to drop, more and more rivers running dry, private wells seeing increasing contamination, and disappearing wetlands, we should be doing more to protect our water resources for all Wisconsin residents. Making it more difficult to challenge proposed high capacity wells undermines groundwater protection efforts and threatens one of our most important natural resources.

On behalf of the central and western Wisconsin residents who have contacted us with concerns and the many state residents who stand to be negatively impacted, we encourage you to veto the language in the budget that prohibits a person from challenging a high capacity well permit based on the cumulative environmental impact of that well together with other existing wells.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Shilling  
State Senator  
32<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

Julie Lassa  
State Senator  
24<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Kathleen Vinehout  
State Senator  
31<sup>st</sup> Senate District