



RON TUSLER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 3rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Rep. Ron Tusler

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(608) 237-9103

BRILLION RESIDENTS WIN BIG: DNR FUNDS DREDGING PROJECT

DNR funds dredging project despite Governor's dead-of-night veto

MADISON, WI... Representative Ron Tusler (R-Harrison) issued the following statement after the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) agreed to fund the recently vetoed Brillion dredging project on the north branch of the Manitowoc River:

“This funding is the direct result of the tireless pressure Brillion residents put on the DNR. Let’s be clear: Governor Evers tried to block this project for purely partisan reasons. He ignored Brillion’s farmers and families.”

“Since Governor Evers’ 1:30 AM veto, I’ve worked closely with local stakeholders who never gave up on this effort, and their voices made all the difference. I want to personally thank everyone who contacted the DNR and fought to make this project a priority.”

“I will not trust Governor Evers’ word until the project is done. I have been assured that it will happen this legislative cycle, ending December 2026. The DNR will be hiring a private contractor through the bidding process. I will keep a close eye on every part of this project. We cannot let the families who live and work near the river suffer unnecessary and destructive flooding that costs them thousands of dollars and threatens their way of life.”

“I’m thrilled the DNR finally came through, but let’s not forget how we got here. Governor Evers vetoed this funding while keeping similar projects untouched. He claimed it was because of the timing of the passage of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund. I support funding the Knowles-Nelson, but its funding is a foregone conclusion. He had some other reason to veto our simple project. Any attempt by the Governor to now take credit for this project is disingenuous. The credit belongs entirely to the Brillion farmers, families, and local leaders who stood up and demanded action.”

The Brillion dredging project, originally approved by both the Senate and the Assembly in the state budget, was created to support more than 100 farmers whose land floods every year due to river backup. Governor Evers stripped the project from the budget using his broad line-item veto powers at 1:30 AM. This vital effort will restore the river’s flow, protect farmland from recurring losses, and reopen the Brillion Marsh to kayakers and outdoor enthusiasts who cherish this natural resource.

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The 3rd Assembly District covers Calumet County and western Manitowoc County. Visit RepTusler.com for more information.