



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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THE HEBL CAPITOL REPORT

HEBL WORKS TO PROTECT LOCAL LAKES AND STREAMS FROM MERCURY

MADISON - This past legislative session has been an important time for the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.

After months of discussion, working together in a bipartisan way, we finally passed the historic Great Lakes Compact. I am proud to say that some of my colleagues and I were able to protect Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Environmental Stewardship Fund. Unfortunately, I was disappointed when our committee recently failed to protect local lakes and streams from mercury emissions.

During our meeting on August 20, 2008, our committee voted 7-6 on a party-line vote to reject a rule which would have provided significant public health and environmental benefits while minimizing costs to ratepayers. This rule would have reduced emissions from coal-burning power plants and was developed specifically to address mercury contamination in Wisconsin's lakes and waterways.

Mercury, ozone and other particles covered under this rule all adversely affect human health with related costs on the order of hundreds of millions of dollars. Without this rule, regulatory and health care costs will continue to adversely affect public health, the environment and economic development in Wisconsin.

As your State Representative, I am honored to be serving my second term in the State Legislature and the service I have offered to the Oregon community. In the last four years, I am proud of the numerous things that we have been able to accomplish together in a bipartisan way. However, I think we can and must do more about protecting the public health of our communities. I am committed to fighting for the quality of life that we all enjoy.

Our natural resources are some of our greatest assets here in Wisconsin. I encourage my colleagues to act today on the Mercury Rule. There once was a time when you could eat what you caught in local lakes and streams, whereas today there are numerous restrictions due to mercury contamination.

I urge my colleagues on the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules, who have the authority to offer revisions, to pass this Mercury Rule for the benefit of all who want to breathe clean air and enjoy clean water here in Wisconsin.

If you would like additional information on this issue or any issue related to state government, please feel free to contact me. You can call my office at 266-7678, write me at P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708, or contact me via email at Rep.Hebl@legis.state.wi.us.

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