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*\*Audio clip attached:*

**Rep. Tranel Supports Bipartisan Legislation Addressing Water Quality**

*Bi-Partisan group of lawmakers propose package to address water quality in Wisconsin*

Madison –Today Rep. Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City) joined a bipartisan group of legislators in announcing a bill package based on legislative recommendations from the Speaker’s Task Force on Water Quality. The Task Force proved to be an unprecedented, bipartisan effort to address water quality issues and ensure clean water for future generations. The special committee brought together farmers, conservation groups, academics and concerned citizens from across the state to help craft recommendations that represent the interests of all those involved. Thirteen bills that are based on those recommendations were announced today by members of the Task Force.

“Water is obviously important to everybody in all walks of life. It doesn’t matter if you are a Republican or a Democrat since this is not a partisan issue. It was wonderful to work on the task force and be able to propose some common sense solutions. Certainly this is not going to solve all the problems, but it represents a positive step in the right direction. We need to recognize that agriculture has a large role to play when it comes to improving our state’s water quality. At the same time we need to realize that farmers are not going to be able to afford implementing all the changes on their own,” said Rep. Tranel.

The Task Force held 14 hearings across Wisconsin. Legislators heard from hundreds of citizens and more than 70 organizations involved in protecting Wisconsin’s water resources. The $10 million investment announced today includes innovative proposals as well as additional investment in programs that have shown to be effective. The package of bills brought forward includes the development of a central water quality state office, funds for research, assistance to farmers to implement conservation practices, support for our county conservation departments, and additional tools for mapping and public education. The recommendations also address emerging contaminates and kick start the development of new programs in the UW System to equip our workforce with the unique skills needed to tackle our water quality challenges.

You can view the Task Force’s research and legislative proposals at the following link: <https://waterqualitywi.com>

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