



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **VanderMeer and Testin Looking for Answers on Recent 980 Offender Placement**

**Madison** - Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) and Senator Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) have released the following statements regarding the recent news of a convicted sexual offender from Kenosha County being released into the Town of Oakdale in Monroe County:

“As soon as we were made aware of the situation, we began the process of obtaining more information about the case in question, the state’s involvement, and what happened in the court case that was decided in Kenosha County. Senator Testin and I have pending requests for information from the Department of Health Services, and the Department of Corrections, and are in the process of obtaining information from Kenosha County,” VanderMeer stated.

“Rep. VanderMeer and I recently requested input from Attorney General Kaul on this matter,” added Senator Testin. “In response to complaints from constituents throughout the state, we authored and passed legislation to remedy this issue during the last legislative session. Unfortunately, it’s our understanding that judges, primarily from southeastern Wisconsin, were continuing to abuse the statutes. Legislation that attempts to explicitly close any potential loopholes has been offered this session and passed through the Senate Committee on Judiciary unanimously.”

VanderMeer continued: “As stated in the formal letter Senator Testin and I sent to Attorney General Kaul, we understand that a rehabilitation of this nature is a complex issue and one where the state has constitutional obligations to offenders. However, we do not believe that the rural residents of our state should be subject to southeastern Wisconsin judges placing sexually violent offenders in our communities. That’s not right and it needs to stop. I want to thank all of the local residents that have reached out to us and our offices



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on this issue. We're looking for answers in this case right now, and we are also doing what we can to make sure our statutes are being adhered to as written."

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