



Media Release

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Rep. Shankland's Bipartisan Water Quality Bill Heads to Governor's Desk



Photo (above): Rep. Katrina Shankland speaks about Assembly Bill 65 on the Assembly Floor

MADISON- This week, the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate unanimously passed [Assembly Bill 65](#), co-authored by Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point). The bipartisan legislation seeks to improve Wisconsin's water quality by expanding access to lake and river protection grants and encouraging more farmers to participate in producer-led watershed protection groups.

[Assembly Bill 65](#) received support from 25 environmental and agricultural groups and will bring people together to promote the best agricultural conservation practices. The legislation expands eligibility for the [Producer-led Watershed Protections Grant Program](#) administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) by clarifying that grants may be awarded to producer-led groups spanning multiple adjacent watersheds. Further, the bill opens up the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) [Lake and River Protection Grants](#) to producer-led watershed groups, ensuring our state's farmers and water quality leaders have access to funding for protecting our state's water resources.

As an author of the bipartisan bill and Vice-Chair of the 2019-2020 Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality, Rep. Shankland released the following statement:



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Katrina Shankland
71st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

"I am thrilled that Assembly Bill 65, bipartisan legislation to support our farmers with initiatives for healthy water and soil, has passed both the State Assembly and Senate unanimously. I was glad to work with Reps. Kitchens, Novak, Tranel and Sen. Cowles in authoring and introducing this bill. We have worked hard to pass this legislation since I co-chaired the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality. We all agree that everyone in our state deserves access to clean and safe drinking water and healthy lakes, rivers, and soil. This bill is a terrific step in the right direction, as it improves programs supporting the immensely successful farmer-led watershed groups throughout Wisconsin.

"I want to thank the farmers participating in producer-led watershed protection groups for their leadership on water quality, including Farmers for Tomorrow and Farmers of the Mill Creek Watershed in Portage County. By promoting and implementing best practices, including cover crops, no-till, interseeding, grazing covers, alternative forages, and more, our farmers are leading the way in reducing nitrate, phosphorus, and other contaminants in our groundwater and surface water. Water quality is not a partisan issue, and the support my bill received from legislators, as well as environmental and agricultural organizations, demonstrates that when we work together across the aisle, we can find meaningful solutions to our state's most pressing challenges."

Now, [Assembly Bill 65](#) heads to Governor Evers' desk and awaits his signature. For more information on Rep. Katrina Shankland and her work in the Wisconsin State Assembly, please visit legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/71/shankland.



Photo (above): Rep. Katrina Shankland, Sen. Rob Cowles, and Rep. Joel Kitchens provide Assembly Bill 65 author testimony in the Assembly Committee on the Environment

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