

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Rep. Hong statement on the DNR's finding of elevated PFAS levels in the Madison area**

**MADISON** — Today, the Department of Natural Resources announced that it has found elevated levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in surface water samples taken from Madison-area lakes and along the Yahara River. In their release, the DNR outlines that “PFAS are human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products” and that they often find their way into bodies of water as a result of “spills of PFAS-containing materials, discharges of PFAS-containing wastewater to treatment plants and certain types of firefighting foams.” At this time, the DNR has not issued any immediate advisories but is actively working with responsible parties to discuss next steps.

**Representative Hong (D-76) issued the following statement:**

“The contamination of our lakes and the issue of clean drinking water are of importance to not only the DNR, but to every Wisconsinite. PFAS are ‘forever chemicals’, meaning that they do not break down easily in our environment. As such, not only do they present detrimental impacts on our groundwater and natural ecosystems, but they also present considerable public health and safety concerns. PFAS have been linked to cancer, liver disease and reproductive health problems.

“We cannot let our lakes and rivers be poisoned nor can we risk the health of those in District 76 or across Wisconsin. Contaminating parties must be held accountable and stringent measures must be implemented in order to eliminate the PFAS found in Lakes Mendota, Monona, Upper Mud, Waubesa and Kegonsa, as well as along sections of the Yahara River.

“I urge the DNR to take immediate and decisive steps in tackling this alarming new development. It cannot be stated enough that issues of environmental concern are issues of human rights — every person deserves a sustainable, safe, and healthy environment. I look forward to collaborating with municipal, county, and statewide officials to immediately and aggressively address these elevated levels of PFAS chemicals in the Madison area.”

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