



JILL BILLINGS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Rep. Billings Statement on Legislation Allowing DNR to Create Standards for Hazardous PFAS Contamination in Groundwater

Madison – Today, Representative Billings introduced legislation in the Assembly to help protect Wisconsinites from PFAS contamination in groundwater. Rep. Billings has worked with advocates and state and local partners to prioritize this legislation and released the following statement:

“This morning, Senator Pfaff and I introduced legislation that will allow the Department of Natural Resources to continue their essential work to create groundwater protection standards for PFAS. The DNR’s rulemaking efforts were paused by the REINS Act, which requires legislative approval for implementation of certain administrative rule-making based on cost, and our legislation would provide that legislative approval for these urgent safety standards.”

“PFAS chemicals have been commonly used in household items for decades, do not break down like normal substances, and have contaminated the water across our state. We know that exposure to these forever chemicals increases the risk of ovarian, testicular, kidney, and liver cancers, birth defects and damage to fertility, kidney disease, and altered immune function. The question facing elected officials in Wisconsin isn’t whether these chemicals are harmful, it’s what we’re going to do to about PFAS.”

“In my district, the Town of Campbell has over 500 wells with groundwater contaminated by PFAS. Some wells have PFAS contamination hundreds of times higher than federal recommendations. The residents of this community have lived with a drinking water advisory for nearly three years and have relied on bottles and five gallon jugs of clean water because the water in their homes is not safe. Families in my district and across the state deserve to be protected from dangerous PFAS contamination in groundwater.”

“DNR has created standards for PFAS chemicals in drinking water but has been blocked from creating standards in groundwater. The obstacle to groundwater safety must be removed from the DNR’s path immediately so the work to keep Wisconsin residents safe from harmful toxins can continue unhindered. 70% of Wisconsinites use groundwater for their water supply and none of them should have to worry about whether the water coming out of the tap is safe. The legislature must consider this bill with the sense of urgency that this issue demands.”

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