

04 August 2022 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Sen. Eric Wimberger (608) 266-5670

Senator Wimberger Releases PFAS Bill Package

GREEN BAY, **WI** — Wisconsin State Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Green Bay) released a package of bills this week that will make significant progress toward cleaning up PFAS contamination and ensure farmers are protected from unfair government orders.

As recently as November, the Evers administration authorized the spreading of PFAS-contaminated biosolids on Wisconsin farmland, even as they called for more stringent standards for PFAS in water. In addition to the health and safety implications for people, this continued DNR-backed spreading of PFAS over farmland could destabilize affected farms, drive down land values, and cause significant financial harm to local people and governments.

"These bills encompass a short term strategy of deflecting costs and stabilizing property devaluation, while putting forward a long-term strategy of cleanup and revenue generation."

The bill package includes:

- LRB 6475- **Stabilizes land value** by facilitating Alternative Land Use. Establishes a program to facilitate the development of solar farms on certain agricultural land contaminated with PFAS
- LRB 5628 **Protects farmers** from the uncertainty of future government orders by providing exemptions for certain agricultural land contaminated with PFAS
- LRB 6349 **Provides direct support for cleanup** of PFAS-contaminated land by establishing remediation grants
- LRB 6348 **Helps local governments** deflect the cost of expensive, out-of-state landfill fees through direct grants.
- LRB 6347 **Plans for safe, long-term disposal** by studying options for establishing an in-state landfill for PFAS biosolids
- LRB 6404 **Looks to the future** through cost and feasibility studies of additional PFAS disposal methods

"While solar power isn't a 100% energy solution, developing solar farms on land that can't be farmed is one way to reestablish land value, generate revenue for the land owner, and stabilize the tax base without destroying the land.

"PFAS-laden biosolids are currently either used as fertilizer on farmland which can contaminate wells, or are shipped to landfills across the United States at great expense to local governments. A method to dispose of PFAS in the state will translate to huge savings for local treatment facilities while stopping additional polluting."

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Senator Eric Wimberger represents the 30th Senate District, which includes parts of Brown, Oconto, and Marinette Counties.