



STATE SENATOR  
**Eric Wimberger**  
DISTRICT 2

February 11, 2025  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:  
Senator Eric Wimberger – (608) 266-5670

## **Governor Flips on Protections for PFAS Victims**

*300+ days after the Needless Veto of Comprehensive PFAS Relief, Evers Now Supports Victim Protections;  
Evers' Non-Response to Legislators Continues to Add to Delay*

MADISON – Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Oconto) today [sent a letter](#) requesting Governor Evers respond to a December request for the Governor’s engagement on protecting innocent landowners from government overreach.

The letter comes after [the Governor recently announced he would include](#) innocent landowner protections in his state budget plan, a provision he previously cited as the reason for his veto of comprehensive PFAS relief passed by the legislature last year. Meanwhile, the Governor failed to respond to [a December letter from the bill author requesting](#) language protecting innocent landowners that the Governor would sign into law.

*“When I created language to protect innocent landowners last session, I repeatedly asked you for statutory language you would feel comfortable signing into law. When I did not get a response, I and the numerous groups working on this legislation simply did the best we could to predict your preferences,”* Senator Wimberger said. *“In an effort to save Wisconsinites time that they do not have by guessing on your definition of an innocent landowner, I am reiterating my request from December requesting your preferred language relating to defining these victims.”*

In the 2023-24 Legislative Session, Republicans set aside \$125 million for PFAS remediation efforts, and passed Senator Wimberger’s [Senate Bill 312](#), creating needed framework and PFAS-specific programs to help affected people and communities begin cleanup. [The Governor vetoed Senate Bill 312 in its entirety](#) over the “innocent landowner” provision, expressing concern that the bill would limit the DNR’s authority to pursue action against innocent landowners “just in case”. However, the bill contained a list of entities that qualify as innocent landowners nearly identical to the list of parties [the Biden EPA](#) has decided not to hold federally liable for contamination.

Since the veto of Senate Bill 312, Senator Wimberger has repeatedly asked the Governor to provide his preferred language to protect innocent landowners, but Governor Evers has yet to provide any. The lack of response continues to unnecessarily delay progress on a legislative solution and hold-up much-needed PFAS relief to communities across Wisconsin still hurting from these contaminants.

Senator Wimberger ends the letter expressing further disappointment in the lack engagement and communication from the administration on such a critical issue.

*“Not having your clear stance on protecting innocent landowners is actively and unnecessarily holding up needed relief to affected communities. Wisconsinites deserve better than waiting years for repeated attempts in a veto guessing game.”* Senator Wimberger concludes.

###

*State Senator Eric Wimberger is a former Marine Captain, attorney, and small business owner. He serves as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance and Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. He represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District, including parts of Brown, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, and Waupaca Counties.*

*A media kit for Senator Wimberger can be found [here](#).*