



PATRICK TESTIN
STATE SENATOR

PRESS RELEASE

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Sen. Testin Authored Water Quality Proposals Move Forward

Madison, WI: In a flurry of activity on Tuesday, the Wisconsin State Assembly advanced four bills aimed at improving the state's water quality authored by Senator Patrick Testin (R – Stevens Point). The legislation is the product of more than a year of research, discussion, and effort that began with the creation of the bi-partisan Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality in early 2019.

“When Speaker Vos convened the Water Quality Task Force, I knew that it was important for both houses of the legislature to be involved,” recalled Testin. “We talked it over, and he agreed.”

Senator Testin and his colleagues used input from stakeholders and concerned citizens as the basis for the following bills, each of which passed the Assembly with broad support:

- Assembly Bill 789 - invests \$1 million in the state's well compensation program, and expands eligibility for that program. Co-authored with Representatives Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) and Scott Krug (R-Town of Rome)
- Assembly Bill 800 – Provides resources to the Center for Watershed Science and Education (a partnership between the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources and the UW-Extension) to help them continue their research and to develop a database on private well quality that will help us to better understand and eliminate contaminants. Additionally, the bill creates a matching grant program within the DNR to provide funding for counties to test and map privately owned wells, and funding to assist with further investigation of phosphorous. Co-authored with Representatives Shankland and Krug
- Assembly Bill 790 – Invests in locally available expertise so that every county has the resources to employ three county conservation staffers. These staffers will take a hands-on approach to helping farmers implement water resource management plans, cost-share grant administration, and the farmland preservation program. Co-authored with Representatives Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) and Rob Brooks (R-Saukville)



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- Assembly Bill 791 – to extends the Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) program. This program rehabilitates failing septic systems, and helps safeguard our groundwater from waste. Co-authored with Senator Andre Jacque (R-DePere) and Representatives Scott Krug and Tony Kurtz (R- Wonewoc).

“These bills implement short-term fixes that will help people with contaminated wells and explore long-term solutions,” said Testin. “By working together, my colleagues and I have come up with bi-partisan proposals so that people across the state have access to clean water now and in the future. That’s something that I think we can all support.”

The next stop for the bills is the State Senate. If they pass in that house, they will head to the Governor’s desk.