



**PATRICK TESTIN**  
STATE SENATOR

***PRESS RELEASE***

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February 28, 2019

**Senator Testin Releases Clean Water Health and Wellness Act**  
*Legislation Would Task DHS with Aiding Well Owners Dealing with Contamination*

**Madison, WI** – Today, too many Wisconsinites are at risk of consuming nitrate-contaminated drinking water from their private wells. Thanks to new legislation, help could be on the way. On Wednesday, Senators Patrick Testin and Rob Cowles joined Representatives Tony Kurtz and Scott Krug to introduce the Clean Water Health and Wellness Act, a proposal that would create a \$10 million pilot program at the WI Department of Health Services (DHS) to help well owners cover the costs of remediation.

Private well owners living in a county that chooses to participate in the pilot program would be able to contact their local health department to request a nitrate test. The department would then submit a water sample, report the results to DHS and the well owner, suggest a remediation method if necessary, and then recommend a grant amount. Well owners would be eligible for grants up to \$2,500.

Supporters of the legislation point out that it is unique in two key ways – the size of the program, and its proposed home at DHS.

“Nitrate contamination is a public health issue,” said Sen. Testin. “By making an allocation of this size at DHS, we ensure that it will be treated as such.”

If enacted, the program would grant preference to treating wells utilized by groups particularly susceptible to nitrates – adults over the age of 65, pregnant women, and children under the age of three.

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