



JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

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PETROWSKI CLEAN UP BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

DNR to fund cleanup of waste left behind by 5R Processors Limited

(Madison)...A bill authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon) to require the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to contract for the cleanup of contaminated lead glass and other electronic waste materials left behind by “5R Processors Limited” was signed into law by Governor Tony Evers today. The bill, Senate Bill 890/Assembly Bill 943, had enjoyed tremendous bipartisan support in the state legislature, passing both the Senate and the Assembly on unanimous votes earlier this year.

“I want to thank the governor and my legislative colleagues for their support of this important bill,” said Senator Petrowski. “This was truly a collaborative effort of state and local officials working together to tackle the problems that 5R Processors irresponsibly left behind.”

5R Processors was an electronics recycling company formerly based in Ladysmith. Investigations by the DNR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) led to the prosecution of the leadership of the company by the U.S. Attorney for the Western District. While most of the legal matters that arose from the situation have been resolved, millions of pounds of electronic waste were left behind without a responsible party to clean it up. The electronic waste is currently contained in several semi-trailers and warehouse facilities located in Rusk, Price, and Washington Counties.

“The state simply couldn’t just sit on our hands and allow this waste to further pollute the land or water -- or stick the local taxpayers with the bill for cleaning it up,” said Senator Petrowski. “This initiative will clean up the mess left behind by 5R and not at a cost to our local governments.”

Senator Petrowski’s bill directs the DNR to contract with a third party for the removal and proper disposal of this waste using \$2.5 million in segregated funds from the state’s environmental management account. The bidding process for the contract is expected to begin within the next few months.

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