

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO WRITE A LETTER OR MAKE A CALL. OUR PRECIOUS WISCONSIN WATER IS ON THE LINE!



*.....keeping
watch on the
industry*

Issue: ISSUE # 140
Date: MAY 30, 2017

The waters of Wisconsin belong to us, the people of Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin senate and assembly passed a groundwater bill (SB76/AB105) that is sitting on Governor Walker's desk awaiting his signature. He could sign the bill at any time and he needs to hear from you that you won't forget it if he does. Please consider taking one or more of the actions listed below TODAY.

There are resources and information below, but the most powerful statement you can make is how you think and feel about the bill and how it could impact your life and the lives of future generations.

There is a draft petition at the end of this document. Use it as you see fit. There may be a statewide effort coming to gather signatures to inform Walker's re-election bid. Most importantly, call or write the governor TODAY. Write a letter to the editor today.

Link to text of the groundwater bill that passed the senate and assembly and is on the governor's desk to sign
<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/enrolled/sb76>

Contact Governor Walker and tell him not to sign SB76 and AB105 into law.

Email for governor's office
govgeneral@wisconsin.gov

Phone number for Governor Walker's office (608) 266-1212

Mailing address; Office of Governor, 115 East Capitol, Madison, WI 53702

**Write a letter to the editor:
Say what you feel and think about the legislature and governor putting our public waters at risk and**

diminishing the rights and opportunities of future generations

https://host.madison.com/forms/online_services/letter/ WI State Journal

<http://static.jsonline.com/letter-to-the-editor/> Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

<http://static.postcrescent.com/submit-letter/> Appleton Post-Crescent

<http://static.greenbaypressgazette.com/submit-letter/> Green Bay Press Gazette

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/opinion/letters/> Oshkosh Northwestern

<http://lacrossetribune.com/contact/> La Crosse Tribune

<http://www.wisconsinrapidsribune.com/opinion/> Wisconsin Rapids Tribune

http://www.apgwi.com/price_county_review/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/ Price county Review

<https://www.google.com/search?q=wi+govt&ie=ut>

f-8&oe=utf-8#q=capital+times+letters+to+the+editor Capitol Times, Madison

http://www.rivernewsonline.com/main.asp?SectionID=13&SubSectionID=111 Rhinelander

http://www.hngnews.com/lodi_enterprise/article_866d9204-f3c6-11e6-98ba-97257f5ffbc5.html Lodi Enterprise

You can find your local paper link by searching online

Link to text of the groundwater bill that passed the senate and assembly and is on the governor's desk to sign

http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/enrolled/sb76

Background: The central sands region of Wisconsin has on-going problems with the over pumping of groundwater. The governor, legislature and attorney general have interfered with the sound management of our groundwater resources by stripping the Department of Natural Resources of resources and authority to use sound science to protect and sustain our groundwater. Thousands of Wisconsinites opposed the bill but their elected officials ignored

them and disregarded decades of scientific study.

What this bill does:

- **Creates a property right to existing high capacity wells that transfers with the sale of the land**
- **Prohibits any citizen impacted by high capacity wells from judicial review of DNR decisions and actions**
- **Limits DNR authority to use sound science to review and approve new high capacity wells and expanded pumping capacity of existing wells**
- **Allows high capacity well owners to rebuild or replace wells with no prior review by DNR, requiring only that these actions are reported to DNR within 90 days of completion**
- **Requires DNR to study a limited area in the central sands region but provide no funding for the extensive process outlined in the bill**
- **Requires the DNR to get resources from the Joint Finance Committee of the legislature to conduct the study when they've passed budget after budget cutting resources to DNR limiting their capacity and authority to enforce laws to protect public health and clean water**
- **Even if the DNR is able to complete the study**

with no dedicated funding, the legislature must create a new law to give DNR authority to act on their recommendations

- **The legislature has no duty to act on or adopt DNR's recommendations based on years of the study**

DNR's capacity and authority to enforce current laws to protect public health and public waters has been eroded by the legislature, governor and attorney general. It is unlikely DNR will have the staff or resources needed to carry out the study required in this bill and they may not act on serious groundwater problems until the study is completed and the legislature passes a law describing what the DNR can or can't do to act on recommendations that come out of the study.

Under current law we all own our water together. We can use water as long as we put it back clean. There are court cases in process challenging limits on DNR authority to protect public waters. The wins have been appealed by "money is no object" special interests.

What does this mean and what can we expect if the bill is signed into law:

- **Owners of high capacity wells can impact our**

public waters and the DNR won't be able to act unless the legislature passes a bill describing DNR's authority to act

- **New high capacity wells will be approved and citizens will be prohibited from challenging those approvals**
- **Groundwater depletion will continue making any future solutions more difficult to achieve**
- **Complex, expensive litigation if citizens can afford it will take years and years with no guarantee of an outcome that protects public waters**
- **High capacity wells will become property of the owner of the land where they are located and the DNR may not review or revise well approvals or impose conditions needed to protect groundwater and surface water**
- **The bill creates a process that requires DNR to do a study that currently is not funded and even if a study is completed, the legislature has no duty to act on DNR's recommendations**
- **This could set precedent for how groundwater outside the small area defined in this bill, creating lengthy, expensive processes where the legislature can ignore scientific findings at the end of the process.**

Resources:

<http://wisconsinwatch.org/series/groundwater-supply/> Center for Investigative Journalism

http://centralsandswater.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/CSWAC_SB76_PressRelease_March28.pdf

<http://www.wisconsinrapidstribune.com/story/news/2017/02/28/lawmakers-mull-high-capacity-well-bill/98494136/> WI Rapids Tribune

<http://www.lwwwi.org/Portals/0/News%20and%20Events/PDFS/2017Apr-HighCapacityWellLegislation.LWVMC.pdf> League of Women Voters

See Petition Below:

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.CCC-WIS.COM for additional information

Save The Hills Alliance, Inc. | S6650 County Road G, Augusta, WI 54722 ccc-wis.com

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