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The Nature Conservancy Urges Senators to Reject Wetlands Bill

The Nature Conservancy today called on the State Senate to reject the bill passed by the Assembly yesterday that will remove protections from tens of thousands of acres of non-federal wetlands throughout Wisconsin.

Non-federal wetlands are those not protected by the Clean Water Act but which Wisconsin has had the foresight to protect up to this point.

We have already lost over half of the wetlands once found in Wisconsin. The Assembly Bill removes protections from even more urban and rural wetlands. Very few non-federal wetlands in the southern two-thirds of the state will remain protected. These wetlands provide the populated areas of Wisconsin with flood storage, water purification and wildlife habitat. While policy makers debate trillion-dollar infrastructure spending proposals, these wetlands provide the same services for free.

Removing protections from any wetlands is the wrong direction for the State of Wisconsin. We should be adding acres of protected wetlands to provide the free services that these natural areas deliver to all the citizens of the state.

The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. In Wisconsin, the Conservancy has protected more than 233,500 acres of land and water since 1960. www.nature.org/wisconsin