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# JOHN J. MACCO

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 88<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Rep. Macco Calls on Water Quality Task Force to Question Milwaukee Sewerage District's Release of Sewage in Waterways**

**Green Bay...** According to a March 19, 2019 article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) released 281 million gallons of untreated sewage into two Milwaukee-area rivers during the week of March 10, 2019, when flooding occurred. This is equivalent to approximately six minutes of water flow over Niagara Falls or could fill 425 Olympic-sized swimming pools. Over the last decade, MMSD has released over 7.7 billion gallons of sewage into Milwaukee-area rivers and Lake Michigan. Rep. Macco released the following statement:

"I realize that MMSD has a permit with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to release sewage into Milwaukee-area rivers up to six times per year in order to prevent sewage backups in residential and commercial buildings. However, I find this to be troubling. It is important to determine the effect of the release of such sewage into these rivers, both of which flow into Lake Michigan – a major source of drinking water. If we truly want to protect the Great Lakes and are going to scrutinize agricultural employers in Northeast Wisconsin, we need to ask tough questions of the largest sewerage district in Wisconsin. As such, I have requested Water Quality Task Force Chairman Todd Novak to request MMSD officials to testify before the Task Force to learn more about their releases of sewage. In Northeast Wisconsin, NEW Water – the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District – has done their fair share to clean up the waters in the region – completing a 15 year cleanup project." said Rep. Macco.

"Also, I have asked Chairman Novak to invite representatives of WDNR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to testify before the Task Force on the recent issuance of a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit to Ledgeview Farms, LLC in the Green Bay area. I would like to understand how this particular farm has been allowed to be out of compliance since 2007 despite receiving citations from both regulatory agencies," continued Rep. Macco.

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