



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

For Immediate Release

December 11th, 2019

Contact:

Rep. Joe Sanfelippo
Rep.Sanfelippo@legis.wi.gov
608.266.0620

Rep. Mike Kuglitsch
Rep.Kuglitsch@legis.wi.gov
608.267.5158

Lawmakers Reviewing Options to Oppose New Berlin Pumping Station

Madison, Wis. – State Representatives Joe Sanfelippo (R-New Berlin) and Mike Kuglitsch (R-New Berlin) announced today that they are weighing options to address the concerns of New Berlin residents and officials with respect to Waukesha Water Utility’s proposed booster pump station and reservoir tank construction in Minooka Park. As opposition to the project continues to grow, lawmakers are considering possible state action to support New Berlin’s efforts to block the proposed facility from moving forward.

“From the very beginning, Rep. Kuglitsch and I have made it clear to all of the decision makers involved that this facility does not belong in New Berlin. It is categorically unfair to burden the people of New Berlin with a large industrial facility that is solely for the benefit of City of Waukesha residents. There are a number of other sites available that would suit the project’s needs without jeopardizing New Berlin’s distinctive residential character,” said Sanfelippo, adding, “Our constituents have made their views loud and clear: keep Waukesha’s pumping facility out of New Berlin. We share their concerns and call on all stakeholders to find a solution that keeps this project out of our city. After careful review, we are confident that New Berlin has the authority under current law to stop this project from moving forward. In the meantime, we are exploring all possible options at the state level to help ensure that the voice of New Berlin’s citizens is heard.”

The project calls for the construction of a 16,000 square foot pumping facility in the New Berlin park, including the erection of two large 9 million gallon water reservoir tanks, over the course of two years. Opposition to the proposal has been widespread among residents, with hundreds of New Berlin citizens turning out to voice their disapproval at a public hearing last month. The Mayor and Common Council of New Berlin have also expressed their displeasure with the project throughout the approval process.

“We recognize the City of Waukesha’s growing thirst for water and the need to find new clean sources after decades of overpumping local aquifers. New Berlin has gone to great lengths to facilitate Waukesha’s efforts to source water from Lake Michigan, even working to allow a key pipeline to be buried under sections of Coffee Road, on which New Berlin recently completed extensive reconstruction. However, further asking New Berlin to also house this large complex is a step too far. As this project solely benefits the City of Waukesha, it is only fair that Waukesha accepts the responsibility of building it within its own boundaries or finding another area that would be amenable to accommodating a facility of this nature. Consequently, we strongly urge the Waukesha officials pushing this plan to reconsider their request,” said Kuglitsch.

###

Rep. Sanfelippo represents the [15th Assembly District](#), which includes most of West Allis and the Northern half of New Berlin.

Rep. Kuglitsch represents the [84th Assembly District](#), which includes the Southern half of New Berlin and parts of Greenfield and Milwaukee.