



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Katrina Shankland
71st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

October 21, 2020

Natural Resources Board
Laurie J. Ross, Board Liaison
Office of the Secretary
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Members of the Natural Resources Board:

I am writing to express my support for Emergency Rule WA-06-20(E), and I respectfully request that the board approve the rule without substantial amendments at the October 28 meeting.

As the Vice Chair of the bipartisan and bicameral Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality, I am especially interested in this issue, having worked extensively to advance legislation to improve Wisconsin's water quality this session in the Legislature. The task force heard hours of powerful testimony from hundreds of individuals and organizations, especially about their concerns with PFAS across our state. Because PFAS are persistent, man-made chemicals and due to the health risks they have been found to be associated with, PFAS must be addressed immediately.

I was pleased to support 2019 Wisconsin Act 101, which I believe is an important first step in managing PFAS contamination in Wisconsin. However, I was disappointed by the decision to delay the approval of the emergency rule. When the Legislature passed 2019 Wisconsin Act 101 to protect the public from the health hazards of Class B firefighting foam, we did not expect anyone to delay our progress with objections to DNR's promulgation of rules.

I was also concerned about the threat of JCRAR action due to the opinions of some influential industry groups. These same industry groups said they supported this modest proposal in 2019 when they spoke in opposition to the CLEAR Act and Assembly Bills 842 and 843, bipartisan PFAS compromise legislation authored by Representative Nygren and Senator Hansen.

This emergency rule is consistent with the rulemaking requirements Chapter 227 and is consistent with the approved scope statement, and its progress should not be delayed any further. This crucial decision must be guided by science and the experts in order to protect drinking water and public health. I am respectfully requesting the Natural Resources Board approve Emergency Rule WA-06-20(E) as currently written at the October 28, 2020 board meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Katrina Shankland
State Representative
71st Assembly District