



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Senator André Jacque

Aug. 6, 2021
(920) 819-8066

SECOND INSTALLMENT OF SEN. JACQUE'S CLEAN WATER AGENDA SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOVERNOR

Measure helps employers be proactive in protecting our waters

DE PERE, WI... The second installment of State Sen. André Jacque's (R-De Pere) bipartisan Clean Water Agenda was signed into law today by Gov. Tony Evers.

"Wisconsin residents, employers and farmers want to protect our water because they know it's the right thing to do, and that their livelihoods depend on it," Sen. Jacque said. "I'm glad the Governor signed this second measure to help state government keep supporting clean water."

Sen. Jacque said this latest bill signed into law by the Governor ([Enviro-Check," Senate Bill 151](#)) is common sense legislation that removes disincentives associated with Wisconsin's Environmental Compliance Audit Program compared to a similar program offered through the federal Environmental Protection Agency. It was unanimously supported by the bi-partisan appointees of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Small Business Environmental Council (SBEC), with language suggested by the DNR.

"With different timelines, deadlines, and procedures to follow in order to use the Wisconsin audit program and one of EPA's audit policies, companies may avoid using whichever program seems less advantageous," Sen. Jacque said. "With more uniformity, the programs can be used simultaneously and offer greater advantage to employers to proactively investigate their processes and operational impact while protecting the environment."

Last month, Gov. Evers signed Sen. Jacque's legislation ([Senate Bill 84](#)) extending the sunset date of the Wisconsin Fund, a grant program that provides financial assistance to help eligible owners of a principal residence and small commercial establishments repair or replace failing private on-site water treatment systems (POWTS). The new law also provides additional program support for processing the existing backlog of applications.

Sen. Jacque said the program is designed to reimburse, on average, 60% of the cost of replacement or remediation, and has been used extensively throughout our state.

"Remediation or replacement often costs thousands of dollars, which presents a real burden for a low income household and leads to the continued existence of environmental threats," Sen. Jacque said. The issue was frequently discussed last session throughout meetings of the legislative Clean Water Task Force of which Sen. Jacque was a member. "Throughout Northeast Wisconsin and the entire state, these failing septic systems are contaminating our groundwater, and this law is a critical step toward cleaner water," added Sen. Jacque.

The third bill in Sen. Jacque's bipartisan Clean Water Agenda, nutrient composting ([Senate Bill 113](#)), promotes one of the more promising approaches for Wisconsin dairy farms to market organic waste compounds, avoid excessive spreading, and reduce runoff into our waters. The legislation has cleared the State Senate and is currently awaiting action in the Assembly.

"We cannot choose between our environment and our economy," Sen Jacque said. "We need to safeguard the environment for future generations precisely because so many of Wisconsin's economic sectors and jobs - from agriculture to tourism and forestry - rely on clean water."

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin's First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.