



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Wisconsin is not a Boundless Warehouse – Amend AB 1 (related to Foxconn)
Keep Environmental Protections in Place**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is to provide for and foster public policy advocacy for the earth as explained in our social statement, *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, Justice*

In our world, country and state we experience urgency for our environment. “In our efforts to make a name for ourselves we have become captive to exploitative powers and treat the earth as a boundless warehouse. The idea of the earth as a boundless warehouse has proven both false and dangerous. Damage to the environment eventually will affect most people through increased conflict over scarce resources, decline in food security, and greater vulnerability to disease.” *Called into the World*, Lutheran Office for Public Policy’s devotional on the ELCA social statements.

By easing environmental regulations for Foxconn or *an electronics and information technology manufacturing zone*, we are concerned that we are moving in the direction of treating Wisconsin as a boundless warehouse with endless supplies of water. We cannot take the attitude that Wisconsin is so water-rich that we can continue extracting water and polluting it without dire consequences. The possible employment opportunities offered by Foxconn may be great, but we do not want those opportunities to emerge at the cost of our environment.

We should maintain environmental regulations on a company that has the potential to extract vast amounts of Wisconsin water and release pollutants into the water. Instead, parts of AB 1 create environmental exceptions and puts aside DNR regulations.

We are pleased that our governor and legislators are so passionate about jobs. We are disappointed that caring for Wisconsin’s land and waters are not integral parts of the discussion. We hope the legislature considers amending the bill so that we do not make exceptions to current regulations that protect our environment. We also hope that the legislature will encourage Foxconn to utilize renewable energy to make the company an example of how to be a manufacturer in Wisconsin.

“The world and all that is in it belongs to the Lord; the earth and all who live on it are God’s.” (Psalm 24:1)