



November 8, 2017

Honorable Senator Steve Nass and Representative Ballweg
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules
Wisconsin State Capitol
Madison, WI

Dear Co-Chair Nass, Co-Chair Ballweg and members of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules,

On behalf of the River Alliance of Wisconsin's more than 2500 statewide members, I write you in support of CR 16-083, and ask that, as a member of the Joint Committee on the Review of Administrative Rules, you approve the final draft for implementation.

The update of ATCP 50, the administrative rule for the Soil and Water Resource Management Program, is needed to bring up-to-date essential nutrient management planning efforts on farms in Wisconsin. These plans not only ensure that farmers are preserving soil health at the same time they maximize farm profitability, but they also protect water resources like lakes, rivers, and streams and ensure that they remain a driver of the tourism industry in the state. Too often in recent years, conflicts between farmers and water advocates has resulted in high-stakes and sometimes costly legal confrontations; these rules seek to ensure that farmers are operating in a common-sense way with respect to manure management and other farm operations, that will minimize these use conflicts.

The updated rule was drafted by a diverse team of farmers, agronomists, scientists, agency representatives, and conservationists, and represents a much-needed improvement on the existing rule that is now 13 years old.

On behalf of the River Alliance, and our broad statewide membership of farmers, realtors, property owners, fishing guides, business owners and conservationists, I ask that you approve the final draft of CR 16-083 and move it toward implementation.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Raj Shukla
Executive Director