



April 16, 2020

The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin supports AB 700 and SB 632 to help ensure timely communications between the DNR and health department and the county land and conservation department in counties where groundwater standards have been threatened.

Although we have many water quality problems to address in our state, passing AB 700 and SB 632 would be a way we could immediately confront one aspect of those problems. The Department of Natural Resources is already the agency that monitors when Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit holders violate groundwater standards. Requiring the DNR to notify the county health department and county land and conservation department in the county in which the permit holder is located and any adjacent county that the DNR determines may be negatively affected by the violation in a timelier manner makes good sense.

A case in La Crosse County revealed that the county and residents were unaware of a potential risk to groundwater contamination for 10 years. This is only one example. The bill requires the DNR to make its appropriate notifications within seven business days.

The bill requiring the DNR to "create and maintain a notification system for notifying county health departments, county land, and conservation departments, and interested parties of the types of violations that trigger the notice requirement" will add to the efforts to protecting our groundwater.

As people of faith, we care about protecting God's creation and safe drinking water.

Pastor Cindy Crane, Director

*..You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,
giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst...
From your lofty home you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruitfulness of your creation. Psalm 104*