Date: August 18, 2021

To: Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee

From: Wisconsin’s Green Fire

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 494

**Wisconsin’s Green Fire is opposed to Senate Bill 494.** The bill “makes numerous changes relating to the control of aquatic plants using chemicals or biological agents” according the analysis.

The Aquatic Plant Management (APM) program is currently undergoing rule revisions for Wis. Admin. Code NR 107, chemical removal, and NR 109, mechanical/manual management. The scope statement was approved in May 2020, and in November 2020, three public meetings were held to discuss nine white papers outlining the conceptualpolicy proposals for rule development. APM program staff are reviewing all written and verbal comments received prior to May 16, 2021, on the policy proposals within the public notification white paper.

DNR staff are early in the process - a first draft of the rule will be released and a public meeting will be held later this summer along with an economic impact analysis. A second draft of the rule and hearing are scheduled for next winter.

Senate Bill 494 was introduced and referred to the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee less than two weeks ago, on August 5, 2021. While I am sure the Committee will likely have an interesting and informed debate, it is simply not the way to pass good environmental policy when the rule making process is proceeding on the exact same issues. Protecting our public waters while providing opportunities for lake front owners to treat their weeds is a balancing act that the public rule making process is especially designed for.

Wisconsin’s Green Fire is dedicated to using science in environmental and conservation decision making which is exactly what is happening in the APM rule making process. Please allow the process to do its job and vote to stop Senate Bill 494.

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