



January 4, 2022

Regarding support for AB 728

The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin supports proposed legislation that will help to protect our citizens from existing contaminants in Wisconsin's water, prevent water pollution, and when possible, treat the contaminants in the water.

We appreciate that this bill makes it easier for owners and renters to be eligible for state grants administered by the Department of Natural Resources to treat private wells contaminated with nitrates or bacteria. Also, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection expanding the number of farms in proximity to watersheds qualifying for funding to detect non-point source pollution would be significant. The expansion will be a way to help farmers to monitor the amounts of fertilizer they are using. This along with extending lake protection grants via the DNR for monitoring and improving water quality in lakes and rivers to farmers will likely increase local control and ownership in caring for God's creation.

We are pleased that the diligent work of the Water Quality Task Force has led to legislative efforts to concretely address the problems we have with the rich resource of water in our state. We know that nitrates and bacteria are among the most pervasive contaminants in Wisconsin's water. Nitrate is an acute contaminant for infants and can cause birth defects as well as chronic illnesses in adults. Bacteria can pose an immediate health risk to everyone. Young children, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems may be at greater risk.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting AB 728.

Blessings,

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.
By the streams the birds of the air have their home;
they sing among the branches.
From your lofty home you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruitfulness of your creation. Psalm 104:10-13*