

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to encourage you to add your name as a cosponsor to the Groundwater Protection bill, LRB 4094/1, being circulated by Senator Mark Miller and Representative Spencer Black. This bill will help protect our precious groundwater resources from excessive pumping from municipal and irrigation wells. Groundwater not only provides the majority of Wisconsinites with their drinking water, but it also maintains the water levels and the high quality of our treasured lakes, rivers and wetlands. While Wisconsin took an important step forward in 2004 with the first Groundwater Protection Act, it was merely a first step, and the time has come to close the loopholes in the first law.

LRB 4094/1 contains the following provision that are important to me:

1. Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to identify areas where coordinated management of groundwater is needed to avoid or correct harm done to groundwater supplies and associated lakes, streams and wetlands, and to oversee development and execution of groundwater management plans;
2. Creates a process for the scientific review of new wells to prevent impacts to sensitive natural resources; and,
3. Requires consideration of conservation measures to ensure new groundwater withdrawals are used efficiently.

It is unacceptable that in a state that cherishes its water resources, we still allow waterways to dry up. The best example is the Little Plover River in Portage County, a popular trout stream which has dried up two years in a row because of excessive pumping. Areas all over our state are experiencing similar problems. The time for this legislation is NOW! Please add your name as a cosponsor to this critical bill, and help protect Wisconsin's precious groundwater resource. You need to act fast – the deadline to cosponsor is March 11. I hope you will join me in protecting our valuable groundwater resource.