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## **Speaker's Task Force recommendations a small step toward clean water**

**Madison, WI – January 14, 2020** — The Speaker's Water Quality Task Force recently released recommendations intended to protect Wisconsin's most valuable natural resource: water. Thirteen bills have emerged.

"Tainted drinking water, polluted rivers and streams, and algae-covered lakes are growing challenges for Wisconsin. The cost of failure to protect and restore water is enormous. Jobs are at stake. Public health is at risk. Innovation, urgency, and the political courage to take bold action are more necessary now than ever before," said Raj Shukla, executive director of River Alliance of Wisconsin.

"Hundreds of Wisconsinites, including River Alliance members and partners, shared their water concerns at the Task Force hearings. Hundreds more submitted written comments. The Task Force hearings demonstrated broad support from Wisconsinites for ambitious state action to protect clean water. The Water Quality Task Force recommendations represent some steps in the right direction. River Alliance is especially encouraged by proposals for much needed, if modest, investments in water-smart agriculture. But as Chair Novak and Co-chair Shankland acknowledged, these recommendations are not the end, but just the beginning. These recommendations don't go far or fast enough to keep Wisconsin water clean and safe, they especially fall short on solutions for lead and PFAS "forever chemicals," and overall, *only address 4 of the 15* most frequently mentioned public concerns outlined in the Task Force report itself," Shukla continued.

River Alliance and its members will continue to work with the governor and legislature to make sure clean water is top priority in Wisconsin. The many remaining public concerns around clean water must be addressed. In the coming weeks River Alliance will analyze and share information about the Task Force legislation with our members and partners across the state. Local group leaders and business owners will weigh in with their elected officials on each bill; we are a mobilized and growing network of fierce advocates for clean water in Wisconsin.

An overview of Task Force testimony and water concerns raised at the public hearings can be found here: [www.wisconsinrivers.org/task-force/](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/task-force/)

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**About River Alliance of Wisconsin:**

Formed in 1993, River Alliance of Wisconsin is a statewide nonprofit, non-partisan advocacy organization that empowers people to protect and restore Wisconsin's waters. The organization's membership includes more than 1,500 individuals and businesses and more than 80 local watershed groups - one of the largest memberships of statewide water groups in the country.

For more information, visit: [www.wisconsinrivers.org](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org)

Task Force overview page: <https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/task-force/>