



GARY ALAN HEBL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Rep. Gary Hebl (608) 266-7678

Earth Day Reminds Us to Protect Wisconsin's Environment

On April 22nd of each year, people around the globe will celebrate Earth Day, showing their support for a healthy environment. Wisconsin's own Gaylord Nelson, our former Senator and Governor, helped to create this special holiday. It is a reminder of the importance of the environment and that we must preserve and protect so that we may pass a healthy planet to a future generation.

Wisconsin has a rich history of conservation advocates. In addition to Governor Nelson, Aldo Leopold and John Muir also called Wisconsin home. Leopold was a professor at UW-Madison, and his conservation work is so venerated that he is considered to be the father of wildlife management. Muir, who attended UW-Madison, found one of the national's leading environmental preservation groups, the Sierra Club.

Safeguarding our land, water, and air is a top priority for me. I have the privilege of being the ranking Democrat on the Assembly Committee on the Environment. We hear testimony from citizens from all over the state about how important it is to protect Wisconsin's natural resources. I also am proud to have been named a Conservation Champion from both the Sierra Club and the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

There is more our country and state can do to tackle important issues that affect our environment, our climate, and our earth. Certainly there is more that the Wisconsin Legislature can do. But you can also make your voice heard as a private citizen.

There are numerous events taking place all over the world to observe Earth Day. Closer to home, there are also events taking place in the 46th Assembly District, such as the Earth Day Expo in Stoughton, featuring artists, environmental organizations, musicians, and food producers. The event runs from 10 am until 5 pm on April 27th. If you are interested in learning more about the event, you can visit sustainablestoughton.com.

I want to make sure that Wisconsin's environment is healthy and strong for years to come. That's why in the past I have authored legislation that would restore strong environmental protections, and will continue to do so going forward. We must keep our future generations in mind when considering legislation, and make sure that we carry forward the legacy of Wisconsin's own conservation champions John Muir, Gaylord Nelson, and Aldo Leopold.

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