



ROBIN J. VOS

SPEAKER OF THE WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Speaker Vos Statement on AG Opinion Affirming Legislative Authority

Madison... Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) released the following statement in regards to the Attorney General opinion on the ability of the Department on Natural Resources to act without explicit statutory authority. The Assembly Committee on Organization requested the opinion on high capacity wells in February.

“The opinion is a victory for the people of Wisconsin as it reinforces that their elected representatives create the laws of our state and not unelected bureaucrats. It reaffirms the separation of powers that our government is founded on. The opinion states that agencies can only act with clear direction from the Legislature.

“While this opinion addresses a much bigger issue within government, it also confirms that any solution surrounding high capacity wells should come from the legislature.

“Access to groundwater is important throughout Wisconsin and has become a concern in central Wisconsin. Reps. Scott Krug, Joel Kitchens and Lee Nerison have been strong advocates on this issue. It’s clear that we must take a closer look at ways to better protect family farms and their ability to transfer and repair wells, while studying the unique situation in the Central Sands in more detail.

“Next session, we’ll continue our efforts to pass meaningful and fair legislation that balances Wisconsin’s vital agricultural economy and our natural resources.”

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