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Contact: Jennifer Giegerich, Government Affairs Director  
608-208-1130 (office), 608-213-1406 (cell), [jennifer@conservationvoters.org](mailto:jennifer@conservationvoters.org)

### **Joint Finance Committee prohibits local communities from protecting air and water from non-metallic mining**

Madison, WI – In a late-night move, last night the Joint Finance Committee, once again, took away local communities' ability to protect their citizens from polluting interests. The JFC passed motion #130, which prohibits communities from protecting water and air from non-metallic mining. Wisconsin Conservation Voters Executive Director Kerry Schumann issued this statement:

"These mines – which can be large frac sand mines or small quarries – have known health impacts. If inhaled, the silica sand dust from quarries can cause silicosis, an incurable disease that has also been known to cause cancer. We've seen trout streams and other water bodies damaged when sand spills into them from mines, and groundwater has been contaminated by chemicals used in the mining process. Almost every community has mines and quarries like these, so this has sweeping impacts on Wisconsin towns, counties, and cities.

It's particularly striking that JFC took a stand-alone bill and put it into the budget late at night – a move that suggests they are well aware of the unpopularity of their actions. Once again, members of the Legislature are bowing to polluters rather than listening to Wisconsin citizens and the local elected officials who represent them."

Motion #130 was approved by a vote of 11 to 5, with Senators Darling, Marklein, LeMahieu, Olsen, Tiffany, and Representatives Born, Katsma, Loudenbeck, Nygren, Rohrkaste, and Zimmerman voting for it; and Senators Erpenbach, Johnson, Stroebel and Representatives Goyke and Taylor voting to reject the motion.

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