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Contacts: Scott Laeser, Clean Wisconsin, 608-807-6332 (mobile) or slaeser@cleanwisconsin.org

Paul Zimmerman, Wisconsin Farm Bureau, 608-828-5708 (office) and pzimmerman@wfbf.com

Statement on new drinking water protections

New NR 151 rules the result of collaboration

MADISON, WI — Clean Wisconsin and Wisconsin Farm Bureau issued the following statement after the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced updates to Natural Resources 151 to protect drinking water for Northeast Wisconsin will take effect July 1:

"These new protections are the result of tireless effort on the part of residents in Northeast Wisconsin to implore the state to address drinking water contamination, and we are pleased to see them take effect," said Clean Wisconsin Water Program Director Scott Laeser. "Many residents in places like Kewaunee County have struggled for years with contaminated drinking water, and these new protections are a sign of hope for a future with clean drinking water."

"WFBF looks forward to continuing to work with farmers, local citizens and other stakeholders to ensure that these new protections are implemented to improve groundwater quality," said Paul Zimmerman, Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Executive Director of Governmental Relations. "In order to do so, local, state and federal government resources are needed to provide assistance to farmers and county conservation staff to accomplish this."

This process has given our organizations and others in our communities the opportunity to sit down and talk openly and meaningfully about how we can find solutions to Wisconsin's water quality problems. Clean Wisconsin and Wisconsin Farm Bureau will continue to work together to move our state closer to a place where agriculture is thriving and everyone has access to clean drinking water.

Both organizations were part of the Technical Advisory Group DNR convened early in the development of the new rules.

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*On behalf of its more than 30,000 members, supporters and its coalition partners,
Clean Wisconsin protects and preserves Wisconsin's clean air, water and natural heritage.*

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general farm organization representing farms of different sizes, commodities and management styles.