



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SEN. JACQUE'S BIPARTISAN CLEAN WATER BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Measure protects groundwater by extending funding to fix failing septic systems

DE PERE, WI... Gov. Tony Evers late yesterday signed the first initiative in State Sen. André Jacque's (R-De Pere) Clean Water Agenda that will protect our groundwater by extending funding to repair failing septic systems.

"Wisconsin residents, employers and farmers want to protect our water because they know it's the right thing to do, and that their livelihoods depend on it," Sen. Jacque said. "I'm glad the Governor signed this measure to keep state government supporting this clean water program."

[Senate Bill 84 extends the](#) Wisconsin Fund, a grant program that provides financial assistance to eligible owners of a principal residence and small commercial establishments by covering a portion of the cost of repairing or replacing failing private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS). The program is designed to reimburse, on average, 60% of the cost of replacement or remediation, and has been used extensively throughout our state. The measure also provides additional program support for processing the existing backlog of applications.

Sen Jacque said issues surrounding the program were frequently discussed last session throughout meetings of the legislative Clean Water Task Force, of which he was a member.

"Remediation or replacement often costs thousands of dollars, which presents a real burden for a low income household and leads to the continued existence of environmental threats," Sen. Jacque said. "Throughout Northeast Wisconsin and the entire state, these failing septic systems are contaminating our groundwater, and this bill is a critical step toward cleaner water."

The POWTS bill is the first installment of Sen. Jacque's Clean Water Agenda signed into law. Two other initiatives authored by Sen. Jacque passed the State Senate with unanimous voice votes earlier this session:

[Environmental Compliance Audit Program \("Enviro-Check," Senate Bill 151\)](#): Sen. Jacque said this common sense legislation removes disincentives associated with environmental compliance programs by harmonizing state and federal timelines, deadlines, and procedures.

"With more uniformity both programs can be used, allowing employers to proactively investigate their processes and operational impact while protecting the environment," Sen. Jacque said.

[Manure Composting \(Senate Bill 113\)](#): Sen. Jacque said that this legislation removes obstacles to the economic viability of manure composting, one of the more promising approaches for Wisconsin dairy farms to avoid excessive spreading and reduce runoff into our waters.

Sen. Jacque said both measures have received strong bipartisan support, and he hoped these bills would reach the Governor's desk soon as well.

"We cannot choose between our environment and our economy," Sen Jacque said. "We need to safeguard the environment for future generations precisely because so many of Wisconsin's economic sectors and jobs - from agriculture to tourism and forestry - rely on clean water."

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin's First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.