



CHRIS TAYLOR

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 76th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**TIME FOR DNR TO CUT THE POLITICS, NOT STAFF
Politicization and Chronic Mismanagement Destroying State Agency**

MADISON – Wednesday, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced a privatization scheme on the heels of a scathing audit earlier this year that exposed staff shortages and an egregious lack of enforcement of water pollution laws. Many long-serving senior staff have fled the agency, which has experienced a 40% increase in staff retirements since 2011, as the Walker administration replaced science-driven conservation management practices with a political agenda that has abandoned critical environmental protections, disbanded scientific research, and cut environmental education.

Rep. Chris Taylor (D-Madison) released the following statement:

“Scott Walker has failed to protect our most precious natural resource, our water, because of his political agenda that places politics over people. His intentional refusal to maintain adequate staffing at the DNR not only jeopardizes environmental and human health, but ignores evidence-based research and expert opinions of individuals committed to sound conservation practices. Rather than adding the needed staff that the Legislative Audit Bureau recommended, the Walker administration wants to privatize the core DNR functions to an unaccountable third party he can control. This reckless approach should alarm all Wisconsinites, as the safety of our water hangs in the balance.”

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