



## FORWARD ON CLIMATE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Rep. Neubauer Releases “Forward on Climate” Bill Package

MADISON - Today, Wisconsin State Representative Greta Neubauer (D-Racine) hosted a press conference announcing her “Forward on Climate” bill package supporting the development of a resilient, sustainable, and equitable economy in Wisconsin.

“Right now, Wisconsinites are picking up the bill for every ton of carbon we burn, while the fossil fuel industry continues to profit. Wisconsinites send over \$14 billion each year out of our state to pay for the fossil fuels that power our communities. That’s money that could be kept right here in Wisconsin,” Neubauer said.

“These bills were designed with input from people across Wisconsin to meet our priorities and invest in our shared future. From supporting our farmers, to building the clean-energy manufacturing sector, to investing in our kids and our schools, these bills build up our communities and bring new opportunities to Wisconsin. We have a lot of work to do, but I’m so honored to be able to do it alongside all of these incredible advocates,” Neubauer concluded.

Representative David Crowley (D-Milwaukee), who co-authored LRB-3971 on Green Banks, said: “Everyone in this room knows that climate change is real, and that it qualifies as an emergency that requires our immediate attention. Clean energy means new jobs, less pollution, and better outcomes for this generation and the next, especially in communities that need it most.”

*Speakers from across Wisconsin shared the importance of taking comprehensive, Wisconsin-centered action on climate change, stating:*

“As our climate changes, my family’s ability to enjoy Wisconsin’s beautiful outdoors is changing, creating a huge impact on our lives and on the lives of families across our state . . . I want to invest in our state, so my children can grow up happy, healthy, and able to enjoy the great outdoors, as so many of us did and still do.”

- Lateria Shaw, a health advocate, Yale University student, and mother of five from Racine, Wis.

“As a former teacher in Southeast Wisconsin, a region that consistently earns an F+ for air quality from the American Lung Association, it was startling to see how many students suffered from respiratory problems... Dismissed as externalities by our utilities, such consequences couldn't be more central to our lives... Let this be the moment when a sea change in Wisconsin begins, a moment when we respond to the urgency of the climate crisis and stop ignoring what science has long told us. Let this be the moment when we recognize the great benefits to our health, our environment and climate, and our economy that will come by making a transition to clean energy widespread and accessible to all Wisconsin residents.”

- Tom Rutkowski, a retired teacher and clean energy advocate from Racine, Wis.

“We need access to jobs, to health care, to water, to clean air and a healthy environment. These are basic human rights, for us and for our children and grandchildren. I want all of you to understand that we all matter, workers and farmers and our marginalized communities. I believe Wisconsin has the potential to be a leader in this fight for sustainability, starting with green banking, school efficiency, and carbon sequestration. Because like me, your kids want it!”

- Stephanie Salgado, a UW Madison student, climate activist, and Honduran immigrant.

“Farmers and rural communities are uniquely positioned to meet the climate goals set forth in these proposed bills. We have the available land base for alternative energy and the opportunity to transform farming practices to sequester excess carbon and improve the health of the environment. In short, we farmers need to have a seat at the table as these bills move forward.”

- Tommy Enright, the owner of Black Rabbit Farm in Amherst, Wis. and Communications & Special Projects Associate at the Wisconsin Farmers Union.

*The four bills included in the initial “Forward on Climate” package include:*

- *LRB 3848, creating a \$1.5 million annual appropriation for a grant program supporting weatherization and energy efficiency updates in public school buildings and providing funds to support student education surrounding the importance of energy efficiency.*
- *LRB 3971, creating a study on Green Banks in Wisconsin, including how the State of Wisconsin can partner with private entities to invest in emerging technologies and infrastructure supporting clean energy, sustainability, and energy efficiency, with a focus on supporting under-resourced communities across the state.*
- *LRB 4201, creating a \$1.5 million annual appropriation for a grant program supporting farmers who use certain sustainable practices, including sustainable farming, growing carbon-sequestering crops, and reducing fossil fuel usage.*
- *LRB 4811, requiring the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to consider the social cost of carbon emissions in determining the siting of new utility-scale power infrastructure in Wisconsin.*

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