



Press Release

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## **SB 76 is Another Handout to Industry at the Expense of the Citizens and Waters of Wisconsin**

On Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> the Wisconsin Assembly will vote on SB 76. The Central Sands Water Action Coalition (CSWAC) still opposes SB 76.

We are also frustrated that the Assembly has chosen to bypass the Assembly Committee on Agriculture. AB 105 deserved a full discussion in an executive session of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture before going to the floor for a vote.

"Once again our legislators are showing us who they are listening to and working for and unfortunately, it is not individuals, homeowners, or landowners. They are listening to industry and campaign donors," said Skip Hansen, CSWAC Chairman.

The Assembly Committee on Agriculture could have had a discussion about the flawed amendment from Senator Testin and Representative Krug. Their amendment does not address the whole problem in the central sands. The ENTIRE central sands needs to be modeled in order to make decisions based on complete information. A region wide study can upgrade existing hydrologic models to help DNR make management decisions based on science that will help agriculture, homeowners and our lakes and streams thrive.

There are portions of this bill the Central Sands Water Action Coalition can support. We can support repair and maintenance of an existing well. We can support the replacement of an operating well. **But, we can only support these positions if DNR has the ability to periodically review existing high capacity well permits.**

SB76/AB105 amendments should include:

- Periodic review of existing high capacity wells.
- The ability and authority to enable the DNR to adjust reviewed permits to meet current conditions and water balance issues.
- An expanded study area that will include the **entire** Central Sands
- No Section 4(3)g, which takes away a citizen's right to contest a DNR decision.

The testimony at the March 15th hearing for SB76/AB105 showed that agriculture and industry are able to get their well permits approved in a timely manner when they need to repair, replace, or transfer their well. There is no need to remove DNR's ability to review well permits to ensure our waters are protected.

As the Wisconsin State Journal article, *State OKs pumping of 1 billion gallons from vulnerable aquifers*, shows if this bill passes we will be locking down large water pumping limits that can only be changed if the permit holder violates their permit. This bill is just another handout to industry at the expense of citizens and waters of Wisconsin.

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The Central Sands Water Action Coalition is a membership organization of 66 lake associations, lake districts, and conservation groups representing more than 50,000 members and their families concerned with negative impacts on water resources in the Central Sands Region of Wisconsin.