



## **Allow Science to Make Decisions Not Politics**

Do you come to Central Wisconsin to use the beautiful lakes for boating, swimming or fishing? Do you like to use the many and wonderful streams to try your luck trout fishing? If you do, urge Governor Walker, and Republican State Senators and Assembly legislators to support the study included in high capacity well bill SB76. On June 1, 2017 Gov. Walker signed this bill into law. It was approved by every Republican State Senator and by all but one Republican in the Assembly. It gives corporate agriculture and dairy interests the ability to repair and even drill replacement wells without any DNR oversight, and an ability to sell their DNR permit to pump water along with the land a high capacity well is located upon. High capacity well business people requested "certainty" for their business, and got it. I guess this means the State has an obligation to make sure they get all the water they want, regardless of the harm pumping might cause nearby lakes, streams, and home owner's wells. Certainty for the mega agriculture businesses will also provide certainty for homeowners and small businesses – **certain water loss and pollution.**

Governor Walker and Republican legislators are beholden to large corporate farm members of the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, the industrial dairy members of the Dairy Business Association and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce. Why do Walker and the Republican legislators like these people more than you the water tourism enthusiast? I can think of about 50,000,000 reasons why. How can that be you say? Industrial growers and dairy people along with their buddies at WMC have donated almost \$50,000,000 to Walker and the Republicans since 2011 according to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

We all know (wink, wink) campaign donations do not buy you a legislator's vote, but it may buy their access. Since only 1% of the State's population farms, can anyone think of why the Republicans voted for and passed a bill that harms the other 99% of our citizens?

Included in Senate Bill 76 is a requirement for the DNR to perform hydrologic studies in the Central Sands. For years the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers and Dairy Business Association have been proclaiming that any solutions to water issues in the Central Sands must be based on sound science, so they supported this study in the bill. In order to fund the studies included in Senate Bill 76, the Joint Finance Committee must include money in the upcoming budget to fund this research. However the science gets funded, it makes sense to do so as the stakeholders supported it, right?

Well that is not what is happening. Despite all the benefits the industrial agriculture and dairy industries are getting in this bill, apparently they do not want the DNR to conduct too much science! They have changed their minds about what should or should not be studied. Senate Bill 76 requires the DNR to study three specific lakes and three specific watersheds to determine the impact high capacity well pumping is causing to these water bodies and neighborhoods. We have recently learned Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association and Wysocki Produce Farm, Inc. have lobbied the Governor and State Legislators to limit the areas to study to only the three designated lakes, instead of including the areas defined in Senate Bill 76. So much for their support and lip service to the value of science. Actions speak louder than words! What are they afraid of? What is their motivation to limit science?

We ask our legislators and governor to fund the study areas as intended in Senate Bill 76. They created SB 76, the time has come to fund it. You don't send a plumber to fix the sink without a wrench or plunger. Don't send the hydrologist to the study areas with half a tool kit.