PFAS Update Aug. 8, 2023. Lee Donahue, Supervisor 2 Health, Education and Welfare

Wisconsin legislators are expected to resume session in September and take up SB/AB 312. The Gov. has signed the biennial budget, so the $125 million dollars allocated to remediating PFAS is “locked in”. However, the next 3 weeks are critical – because in its current form SB/AB 312 contains a loophole which undermines the Spills Law which authorizes the DNR to hold responsible parties/polluters accountable. This loophole would place limitations on the DNR’s authority to test for contamination, begin remediation, and hold polluters accountable for the messes they create.

Meaningful edits need to be made to this legislation to protect communities like Campbell which rely on private wells **and DNR support**. Edits are also needed to ensure the funding and resources can be distributed equitably and efficiently without undermining our long-term safe water solutions. Edits will also determine how the money is spent.

I ask you to contact your legislators by phone or email and ask them to support the Spills Law and edits which uphold the DNR’s ability to hold polluters responsible for contamination which they have spread. The PFAS trust fund money which is being set aside must help fund remediation projects. Communities like Campbell must be able to access those funds, and not be penalized because we do not currently have a distributed municipal water system.

Your legislators must hear from you to act upon your input. Otherwise, I am just one voice in the crowd among 120 other municipalities seeking part of the $125 million dollars. I urge everyone to contact their ***state and federal*** legislators expressing concern about PFAS remediation funding.

The DNR has issued fish consumption advisories related to PFAS contamination in many natural waterways. The longer we continue to allow the production and use of PFAS in our state we will never be able to protect our natural resources including our tap water, our tourism and sporting heritage and the $8 billion dollar outdoor recreational economy.

Call Your Legislator

Sen. Brad Pfaff can be reached at 608-266-5490 **Email**: Sen.Pfaff@legis.wisconsin.gov

Rep. Jill Billings can be reached at 608 -237-9195 and **Email**:Rep.Billings@legis.wisconsin.gov.

Legislative staff members keep track of calls and emails they receive. Your call can be as simple as I am concerned about PFAS in my community and I want to uphold the Spills Law in SB 312.

Campbell, the County health department and the DNR are in discussions about well drilling protocols and educational information about costs, risks, future work which may impact newly drilled wells.

The consortium group with USGS, WI geological survey, Davy engineering, the County and UW Madison will begin research on the plume flow and change of PFAS in our region later this month.

Last, but not least Davy confirms the Well Site Investigation report has been completed and is in the final QC review today. It will be submitted to DNR tomorrow.  Thank you.