

New Clean Water Legislation Proposed in Madison

Written by GBP Staff

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<http://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/S5/kewaunee-harbor-family-s5.jpg>



Conservation Group urges support of LRB 1197 to protect private well drinking water.

MADISON - A new Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau draft (LRB 1197) is being promoted in state legislative circles by conservation groups to address the water quality problem now faced by many rural residents in northeastern Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection estimates one-fifth of private wells in rural Wisconsin contain levels of agricultural pollution that make the water unsafe to drink.



LRB 1197 requires the Department of Natural Resources to administer a program to provide grants to counties, cities, villages, towns, and American Indian tribes and bands (local units of government) for the testing of privately owned wells. The bill also makes changes to the well compensation grant program currently administered by DNR.

It makes it easier for more households to replace their contaminated wells by increasing the amount of annual family income that qualifies for the state's well compensation grant program. The proposed bill also removes the requirement that a well must be used for livestock to qualify for the grant.

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A new Conservation NOW (CNOW) announcement issued today urges attention to this issue.

Jennifer Giegerich of Wisconsin Conservation Voters contributed to this story.

Conservation NOW (CNOW) announce the pro-conservation positions on issues before the senate, assembly and/or governor in the week ahead to state legislators. Others wishing to follow activities in the state legislature also receive CNOW, including legislative staff, conservation voters, and media. All of these issues are tracked on the [Vote Tracker](#). Issues in the CNOW may appear in the [Conservation Scorecard](#), to be released in the summer of 2020.