



**LENA C. TAYLOR**

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE ADVISORY:**  
May 14, 2018

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## **Taylor Statement on Plastic in Water Findings**

(MADISON) – A recently published report, in PLOS ONE, found traces of plastic in the water of several cities, one of which was Milwaukee. The findings concluded that in Chicago, Milwaukee, Duluth and a number of other cities within the Great Lakes region, there are traces of micro-plastics in the drinking water, and in some cases the same traces were found in beer and sea salt.

An additional report published in 2015 by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's science advisory committee found that human exposure to these micro-plastics can pose a threat to the health of those ingesting it. In response to this troubling news Senator Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) issued the following statement:

"I'm concerned that not enough is being done in this state to reflect that safe drinking water is a priority. As elected officials, we have a responsibility to guarantee that safety to everyone, and when dangerous micro-plastics are found in Milwaukee's tap water, we cannot say we've fulfilled that responsibility."

According to the study, it is difficult to recommend practical strategies for avoiding ingestion. While sea salt can be reduced and beer can be avoided, drinking water is not something that can or should be eliminated or restricted, yet tap water is the most prominent source of anthropogenic debris among the three consumables analyzed in this study.

Taylor went on to say, "The findings here are deeply troubling, especially given our current challenges with the more than 70,000 lead laterals in Milwaukee homes. We are getting hit from all sides and I am not sure what the plan is nor how quickly we can address this. This is a problem for both the state and the city, and Governor Walker and Mayor Barrett, have got to do more to determine the extent of the problem. I urge Milwaukee's Public Safety and Health Committee to take up this issue and work to hold public meetings to inform the public."