



# SCOTT KRUG

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## Earth Day: The Wisconsin Way

### *Assembly Republicans unveil environmental protection package*

MADISON – Building on Wisconsin’s deep-rooted commitment to protecting the environment, on this Earth Day, Rep. Scott Krug (R--Nekoosa) announced his support for the Assembly Republican package of market-based legislative initiatives aimed at promoting clean air, water and land. This package is in addition to the Speaker’s Task Force on Water Quality, announced in January (and which includes Rep. Krug).

Rep. Krug spoke at WSAW in Wausau this morning to promote the package, saying, “*Responsible conservation requires public and private partnerships that result in greater opportunities for environmental protection. I’m proud to be part of this initiative and I look forward to seeing it move forward.*”

The package includes:

**Clean Energy Corridor Grants** - This proposal would help create more opportunities for drivers of electric vehicles to travel on main highways connecting neighboring states. The bill authorizes the Public Service Commission to use funds from the Volkswagen emissions-tampering settlement to provide matching grants to businesses (such as convenience stores, restaurants and gas stations) along major thoroughfares for the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging stations. This will help bring Wisconsin on par with other states and promote the use of electric vehicles.

**Renewable Energy Rebates** - This proposal would require all energy providers (utilities) to offer residential customers the option of purchasing renewable energy for their residence at a premium. To help mitigate the cost of the premium, the Public Service Commission will develop a rebate program to cover up to 50 percent of the premium customers pay for the renewable energy.

**Solar and Wind Education & Training Grants** - This proposal would promote workforce development and technical careers in renewable energy, by providing reimbursement grants to employers for solar and wind energy systems education and training. The Department of Workforce Development will distribute the grants using existing Fast Forward funds.

**Commitment to Wisconsin Stewardship** – The package announced today includes a commitment that in the 2019-21 State Budget, Assembly Republicans will protect the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program, which preserves valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protects water quality and fisheries, and expands opportunities for outdoor recreation across Wisconsin on state owned land.

**Recycling Electronics Initiative** – The package includes a call by Assembly Republicans for the exploration of innovative solutions to address the issue of the disposal of electronics, and the resultant pollutants, which end up in landfills. This initiative supports efforts to increase and incentivize the recycling of electronics to promote clean land and water.

Assembly Republicans expect final drafts of the proposals to be ready for release as early as tomorrow, Tuesday April 23.

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos announced the creation of the Water Quality Task Force in early January. The team working on this statewide, collaborative effort will make recommendations on assessing and improving the quality of surface and groundwater throughout the state. As noted, Rep. Krug is a member of the task force, having been appointed by Speaker Vos.

Rep. Krug is also a member of the Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation, (on which he serves as Vice-Chair) and also serves on the Assembly Committee on Environment.

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*The 72nd Assembly District includes portions of four Counties including the communities of Wisconsin Rapids, Port Edwards, Rome, Plainfield, Coloma, Wautoma, and Almond.*