



JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 22, 2019

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Rep. Kitchens looks to renew stewardship program for 10 years

MADISON, Wis. – State Rep. Joel Kitchens, R-Sturgeon Bay, is pleased to announce on Earth Day that he has submitted a budget motion request to the Joint Finance Committee that would reauthorize the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for an additional 10 years.

“I have heard from many of my constituents and their voices have been loud and clear: Gov. Tony Evers’ proposal to renew the vital Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for only two years simply does not go far enough,” Kitchens said. “Allowing the program to continue for another decade will give our state greater assurances that we will be able to remain committed to our goal of safeguarding our invaluable land and water resources.”

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program was created by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1989 to preserve natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. It is set to expire in 2020, and Gov. Evers’ plan only provides an additional two years of funding by using the unspent bonding authority from the current program authorization.

Rep. Kitchens’ budget motion would reauthorize the stewardship program for another 10 years at the current annual funding level of \$33.25 million. The amount may be adjusted in each biennial budget.

“We will have the ability to continue to evaluate whether this funding level is adequate and appropriate in the future,” Kitchens said. “I just believe it is important for us to make a long-term commitment now so we can ensure we have the resources to continue with this program that has done so much over the past 30 years to benefit our state’s residents, wildlife, land and water. In addition to advancing our forest industries, the program has also helped Wisconsin with providing world-class recreational opportunities, which has been a significant factor in boosting our state’s tourism.”

Rep. Kitchens’ budget motion does not make any changes to projects deemed eligible under the program. The different categories of where the funding is allocated would also stay the same.

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