



John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PFAS Contamination Prevention Bill Passes Assembly Committee

Madison--State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) released the following statement:

“Today the bipartisan bill that I authored curbing the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS was approved by the Assembly Committee on Environment,” said Rep. Nygren. “PFAS contamination of groundwater is a serious issue in northeastern Wisconsin and a growing problem in other areas of the state. A large portion of this contamination traces back to the use of firefighting foam and therefore this bill is a strong step toward preventing future issues.”

Under AB 323, using and training with Class B and dual-action fire fighting foams containing intentionally-added PFAS would generally be prohibited. The prohibition does not apply to first responders using the foam in emergency firefighting or fire prevention operations. The foam could also be used in certain testing activities, but only if appropriate containment, treatment, disposal and storage methods, as determined by rule by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), are in place. The bill and its amendments were drafted with input provided by DNR.

This is the second piece of legislation aimed at PFAS water contamination authored by Rep. Nygren in this session. Earlier this year, Rep. Nygren introduced Assembly Bill 85, which called on the Department of Health Services to develop state-based groundwater standards for PFOA and PFOS. As co-chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, Rep. Nygren also successfully advocated state budget provisions that provided additional resources and personnel to the DNR to study PFAS contaminants.

“I would like to thank Rep. Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) and Sen. Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay) for co-authoring this legislation with me, the DNR for its technical assistance, and the Assembly Committee on Environment for advancing AB 323 today,” said Rep. Nygren. “This bill is not the sole answer to the PFAS contamination problem in my area and statewide, but I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue to address this serious issue.”

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