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Rep. Felzkowski Celebrates Forestry and Water Quality Initiatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Madison- Rep. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) celebrated the forestry and paper industry with a resolution on the floor of the Assembly this afternoon and voted for initiatives crafted by the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality.

"I was proud to bring forward a resolution proclaiming May 2020 as Paper and Forestry Products Month in Wisconsin. The value of the paper and timber industries to the Northwoods cannot be overstated. These industries provide over 100,000 men and women with family-supporting jobs and bring in billions of dollars to our state," Rep. Felzkowski continued, "Our state has led the nation in paper manufacturing for more than 50 years, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the Paper Caucus to advocate and prioritize this Wisconsin tradition."

The Assembly also voted on initiatives brought forward by the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality, including a bill authored by Rep. Felzkowski that will increase transparency in the groundwater standards process.

"As a member of the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality, I thoroughly appreciated hearing from members of the public, farmers, county conservationists, businesses and non-profits, professors and researchers, who all came to share their thoughts on Wisconsin's diverse waters. The feedback we got from these individuals was invaluable as we created our legislative package to begin tackling our state's water quality issues.

Rep. Felzkowski's bill would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to hold a 21-day public comment period to allow for comments on the list of potential public health concern substances given to DHS. The bill also requires Department of Health Services (DHS), upon developing a recommended enforcement standard for a substance identified as a public health risk, to provide public notice and a 21-day public comment period on the proposed recommendation, before submitting the recommendation to DNR.

"The bill I authored for the Water Quality Task Force reflects what we heard from those who testified during the task force hearings, that public input is vital to developing public policy. One of the most crucial aspects of our democracy is the opportunity provided to every citizen to voice their opinion and be heard on matters that concern them. Public comment periods are a staple of the decision making process of our state government and I'm proud to have authored a bill that continues Wisconsin's great tradition of open government."

Rep. Felzkowski looks forward to seeing this legislation move through the Senate and be signed into law by the Governor.

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