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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement on Passage of Assembly Bill 736

Madison – Representative Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) released the following statement following the passage of Assembly Bill 736, which brings clarity to shoreland zoning in Wisconsin's towns.

This legislation gives counties and towns a simple addition to their zoning options. Municipalities and counties can cooperate under current law to adopt a city zoning ordinance. However, it is not clear whether a town and county can agree to enforce a zoning ordinance in only part of a town, instead of the entire town. The bill defines that this procedure is allowed.

"With the Northwoods enjoying so many pristine bodies of water, this bill will help local communities have more control over their zoning policies," said Swearingen. "By adding clarity to the law it will give communities like Sugar Camp in Oneida County the certainty to enact general zoning in their shoreland area."

Furthermore, this bill brings clarification to the current law on the interaction between the local regulatory authorities in shoreland areas and the zoning authority in county shorelands. The provisions of the bill do not alter current law, but provide clarifications that will allow towns and counties to operate more effectively and efficiently. This bill will also strengthen the eligibility of farmers for tax credits in shoreland areas that are part of the state's farmland protection program.

"I want to thank the Wisconsin Towns Association and Wisconsin Counties Association for their support during the legislative process as well as Senator Petrowski for spearheading this legislation in the Senate," stated Swearingen.

Assembly Bill 736 passed the Assembly on a voice vote. The bill now awaits action by the State Senate before heading to the governor's desk.

Representative Swearingen represents the 34th Assembly District, which includes the Northwoods counties of Oneida, Vilas, Florence and portions of Forest.

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