



Media Release

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Rep. Shankland Responds to Report Finding Wisconsin is One of Ten States with Growing Nitrate Contamination Issues

MADISON- According to a [report](#) released by Environmental Working Group, Wisconsin is one of 10 states experiencing increasing issues with nitrate contamination in drinking water. Nitrate is one of the most common contaminants found in groundwater, and contamination can stem from commercial fertilizer, manure, and human waste. Long-term exposure can increase the risk of health issues such as blue-baby syndrome, birth defects, thyroid disease, and colon cancer. The report highlighted that smaller communities are often most impacted and least likely to be able afford remediation measures.

Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) issued the following response:

“Wisconsin has a serious nitrate contamination problem. Everyone deserves access to clean drinking water, yet too many people in Wisconsin can’t even drink water from the tap. We have a responsibility as lawmakers to protect the health and well-being of our communities. It’s alarming that nitrate contamination continues to increase in communities across our state, and we can’t wait another month or another year to act.

“As Vice Chair of the Water Quality Task Force, I was pleased to work with my colleagues to introduce 10 bipartisan bills to help address our state’s water quality issues, including a pilot program which would support farmers with grants to help them reduce their nitrate application and runoff. We also introduced legislation to help farmers invest in proven conservation strategies and support research on effective nutrient management planning and nitrate reduction strategies.

“Unfortunately, while all 10 bills passed the Assembly unanimously, they have not yet become law, and we have significant work to do to correct course. I urge the Wisconsin State Senate to take up these water quality bills and pass them immediately – they have waited long enough. I remain committed to addressing these issues proactively and continuing the important work of preventing contamination so everyone can have clean water moving forward.”

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