



JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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Rep. Kitchens Releases Well Compensation Bill

Madison... Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) circulated for co-sponsorship, LRB-4419/1, relating to income limits and award limits for the Well Compensation Program. High-level Department of Natural Resources personnel have been meeting with officials and stakeholders from Kewaunee County to attack various aspects of the groundwater contamination problem. The most urgent need is to provide clean water to those currently suffering with contaminated wells through no fault of their own. LRB-4419 addresses the first recommendation of those meetings, with more to follow. It is a first step measure in addressing groundwater contamination in Northeast Wisconsin.

Rep. Kitchens made the following remarks following release of this legislation:

“Cleaning our groundwater will take time, but those with unsafe drinking water cannot afford to wait. This week, I am taking a step toward providing a short-term solution by introducing a bill to expand the Well Compensation Program. This program provides assistance for owners of wells that are contaminated by livestock feces to replace, rebuild, treat, or seal their wells. Currently, well owners must have a household income below \$60,000 to be eligible for assistance and the maximum payment is \$9,000. This bill would raise the household income limit to \$90,000 and the maximum payment to \$12,000.

“It is important to note that this bill is not intended to solve the problem, but it does provide relief to those who are currently suffering with contaminated wells. Groundwater contamination is a complex problem and unfortunately there is no easy fix. The solution to this problem will not come in the form of one simple piece of legislation, but in a series of steps. It is difficult to be patient when people cannot feel safe drinking the water from their taps, but be assured that many people are working very hard to address contaminated groundwater. I am completely committed to restoring clean water to Northeast Wisconsin, and I am confident that we will overcome this.”

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