

Statement of Steve Hiniker Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin
Regarding AB 655, the so-called “Jobs Bill”

January 13, 2003

Proposed AB 655, the “Job Creation Bill” purports to be a compromise that will create jobs by streamlining the regulatory process while not lowering environmental standards.

That claim is false. The bill will dramatically reduce protection of the state’s lakes, streams and waters. The bill is actually worse than an earlier version of a so-called compromise that was released last week.

The bill removes the ability of the Department of Natural Resources to consider the impacts of proposed piers, dredging projects, bridges, stream re-alignment and culvert placement on aquatic life. That means that the DNR will not be able to protect fish spawning grounds and other critical water resources on the majority of all development on the majority of all lakes, rivers and streams.

The bill was drafted in secret without public input and the end product removes the ability of the state to adequately manage the public trust. We call on all legislators and the governor to reject this legislation.

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