



January 13, 2004

To: Honorable Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly
Re: **Opposition to AB655 as amended by LRB 0295/2 (The Job Creation Act)**
From: WLCV Political Committee; Bill Pielsticker, Chair

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters asks lawmakers to vote against this latest revision of AB655. Careful analyses of LRB 0295/2 by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and others clearly show that under the guise of regulatory streamlining, this draft fails to protect the state's waters from environmental damage. The best example of this, though far from the only one, is the section on Ch. 30 general permits that protects the "riparian property rights of adjacent riparian owners" but omits protection for aquatic and riparian habitat, water quality, and other public rights in navigable waters.

As legislators, you must decide whether you are sincere in your efforts to provide regulatory reform while at the same time ensuring the protection of the environment and natural resources. The current flawed draft shows how difficult it is to achieve that balance when the starting point (AB655) is a document whose goal appears to be to provide regulatory relief without regard for the consequences.

We at the League urge you to step back from this hurried process and draft a substitute that improves the permitting process without threatening our natural resources. Short of that, you should vote against this draft and any others that do not accomplish that goal.

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The mission of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters includes educating the voting public about key conservation issues. Our Scorecard Committee, composed of 15 conservation experts state-wide, assists in the production of our Conservation Scorecard presenting key votes on conservation and environmental legislation each year.

The *Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book 2003-2004*, prepared in collaboration with more than 30 environmental and conservation groups, land trusts, government advisors and academics, serves as the basis for many policy positions taken by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. This resource, which provides background information on conservation issues, detailed policy recommendations, and resource directories was delivered to your office earlier this year. For an additional copy of the *Briefing Book*, please contact the WLCV office or visit our website at [www.conservationvoters.org](http://www.conservationvoters.org)

If you have any questions about this bill or any other Wisconsin conservation issue, please do not hesitate to contact the WLCV office at (608) 850-4585.

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