



March 10, 2004

To: Members of the Wisconsin State Senate
Re: **Support for SB 524**
From: WLCV Political Committee; Bill Pielsticker, Chair

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters urges you to vote in favor of SB 524, regulation of high-capacity wells. Wisconsin needs strong legislation authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to act both to protect surface waters connected to groundwater supplies, and to prevent harmful drawdowns of groundwater levels due to over use. While this bill is not as strong as we would like, applying only to a narrow subset of surface waters and limited geographic regions, it is a start. Its best feature may be that it embodies the concept of adaptive management, combining ongoing data collection and research with the goal of implementing additional measures as needed. Even so, this legislation will do little good if the DNR is deprived of the personnel and budget to implement it fully.

We encourage you to support this bill, and to insure that the DNR is provided the resources it needs to pursue the state's legitimate interests in protecting the waters of Wisconsin for now, and for future generations.

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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.

**Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters**  
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