



# REPRESENTATIVE MARK MILLER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Rep. Mark Miller  
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## **Miller Urges Veto of Special Wetlands Exemption** *Asks Governor to Remember Bipartisan Bill Passed Just Last Year*

Madison—Rep. Mark Miller sent a letter today to urge Governor McCallum to veto the special wetlands exemption contained in the budget repair bill. The provision would exempt the selected site from any state regulation or other general environmental provisions.

“This special exemption is a dangerous step away from wetland protection,” stated Miller. “I am asking the governor to remember the bipartisan bill we passed just last year to protect wetlands and make the right decision for Wisconsin’s environment.”

Last May, the governor called a special session to take up wetlands protection legislation after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers no longer had jurisdiction over specific waters. Wisconsin was the first state to pass legislation to protect isolated wetlands after that ruling.

“How can we promise to protect wetlands one session and destroy them the next?” commented Miller. “Wetlands play a significant role in maintaining the health of our environment, which is why they are being restored all over the country.”

The issue of a special exemption from wetlands regulation is not new to the legislature. During the regular session there were two bills requesting an exemption from wetlands regulation and other exemptions appeared in the former governor’s budget bill in 1999. The proposal is associated with ongoing efforts by Ashley Furniture Industries Inc. to construct a building and fill nearly 14 acres of wetlands. Recently the company has suggested it will no longer build.

“It does not matter if it is Ashley Furniture or some other company, this exemption would open the floodgates for any company to circumvent the legal wetland permitting process,” stated Miller. “This exemption is not good for the environment, for the people of Wisconsin, or for the democratic process.”