

March 31, 2010

Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Wisconsin Water Association membership consists of nearly 100 of the largest cities in Wisconsin and over 800 individual members. Wisconsin Water Association's mission is to ensure safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible drinking water by providing education, timely information, and networking opportunities for our membership and the Wisconsin drinking water community at large.

Wisconsin Water Association's board is submitting this letter to go on record as opposing the current version of SB 620 and AB 844. We support the concepts of protecting our groundwater resource in the State of Wisconsin. However, we cannot support these bills as written.

We have concerns over how the bill was drafted. Water utility members in our organization provide safe drinking water to the citizens of Wisconsin to protect their health and safety. Our group's interests were not considered in this draft, nor were many other stakeholders using water resources that were involved with recent groundwater legislation. We believe this legislation needs further review and discussion.

Attached to this letter and email are written comments submitted by Municipal Environmental Group (MEG) to the Senate Environment Committee regarding SB 620, The Groundwater Bill. We align with MEG's comments.

Wisconsin Water Association relies on MEG as a legislative resource in Wisconsin for issues affecting municipal water utilities as many of our members also belong to MEG. Wisconsin Water Association is the Wisconsin Chapter of AWWA (American Water Works Association) which has over 60,000 members internationally.

Wisconsin Water Association would welcome the opportunity to participate in a stakeholder group to further protect our groundwater resources. Please do not hesitate to call or contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wisconsin Water Association Board