

Citizen Resolution # 440422

(For Hearing Officer completion)



DNR support for clean water

Clean water is essential to life -- for drinking, bathing, cooking, recreation, and more. Not to mention the wildlife that relies on every ounce of water in the state. Factory farms, or CAFOs (defined for the dairy industry as 700 or more milking cows) pose a threat to clean water and their numbers have increased dramatically since 2005. In much of rural Wisconsin, factory farm sewage is raising the nitrate in groundwater to levels that put babies at risk for birth defects and blue baby syndrome. Nitrates have also been implicated in colon cancer and thyroid problems. Over 10% of Wisconsinites' private wells have unsafe levels of nitrates, and private well owners in Wisconsin have paid an estimated 3 to 5 million dollars to repair or replace their wells, treat nitrate in drinking water or obtain bottled water. In addition to the economic burden of well replacement, the health costs associated with high nitrate levels are a major issue. Much of the nitrate contaminating Wisconsin's water comes from manure, which is rich in nitrate, and which is produced in unsustainable amounts by factory farms. Factory farms are subject to rules requiring that an acceptable manure management plan be adopted and implemented. The fact that well water in our rural communities continues to show nitrate contamination indicates that these measures have been inadequate. The problem can be addressed with a robust enforcement program requiring groundwater monitoring and reporting by factory farm owners and imposing corrective actions when contamination is found.

Do you support strong enforcement to reduce contamination of drinking water from improper manure management at factory farms?

Additional Information provided by author:

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.