



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN

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To: Joint Committee on Finance

Re: Statement on 2007-2009 State Budget – Lake Michigan

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin supports the following measures in this budget:

- Funding for conservation wardens to visit boat landings to conduct public education and enforcement of aquatic invasive regulations.
- An increase in the state cost-sharing grants to up to 75% of costs of projects to control aquatic invasive species. Public and private entities are to be eligible for these grants.
- The environmental repair fee on solid and hazardous waste disposed of at a waste disposal facility to \$1.60 per ton. Of this amount, 75 cents per ton would be deposited to the nonpoint account of the environmental fund.
- An increase in the supplement motor vehicle title fee by \$2. This would be deposited to the nonpoint account of the environmental fund.
- An increase in general obligation bonding for cost-share grants for rural landowners to install nonpoint source pollution abatement projects in designated priority watersheds. The budget also supports short-term nonpoint source water pollution abatement projects undertaken by local governmental units.
- An increase in bonding to provide cost-share grants for landowners and provide financial assistance to municipalities and sewage districts for construction of facilities and structures for urban nonpoint source water pollution abatement and storm water management and the municipal flood control.
- The provision by which DNR may make grants from its nonpoint source water pollution abatement program to local government to be used for cost-share grants to landowners for the implementation of animal water management practice if the DNR has issued a notice of discharge to the landowner.
- The budgeted \$17 million in bonding to fund a portion of the costs to remove contaminated sediment from Lake Michigan or Lake Superior if federal funds are provided for the project under the Great Lakes Legacy Act.
- The creation of a sum sufficient appropriation from a segregated environmental management account of the environmental fund to pay debt service costs. The fund could be used for cleanup of contaminated sediment in Milwaukee in the Kinnickinnic River and the Milwaukee River in Estabrook Park and would be expected to leverage \$31 million in federal funds from the Great Lakes Legacy Fund.