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Wisconsin Legislature Is At It Again...We Deserve Our Water!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLOMA – In another attempt to roll back protection for the water in our lakes, streams and faucets the Senate Natural Resources Committee has scheduled a hearing for today on SB302. This bill, authored and sponsored by Senator Neal Kedzie, is intended to undo the critical Supreme Court decision made in 2011 that upholds the DNR's authority to regulate high capacity wells. Kedzie's bill mirrors requests by potato and vegetable growers, CAFO operators, and other high-capacity well users. It would also limit conditions that can be placed on high-capacity wells to protect ground and surface water supplies, such as the lakes and streams at issue in the current Richfield Dairy hearing. This bill was released just this past Friday. Why the urgency? Friends of the Central Sands and other petitioners are in the middle of a Contested Case Hearing on this issue that has already heard two weeks of testimony.

"This bill tries yet again to undo the legal process that we have undertaken to protect our water," said Bill Vance of Friends of the Central Sands (FOCS). "Every day we watch our waters slowly being depleted and yet nothing is done to stop the damage and to return them to healthy levels."

To provide a stark picture of this reality FOCS recently released a short film highlighting why this issue is so important. *Not Standing Still: The Degradation of Wisconsin's Waters* clearly shows the loss of water to Wisconsin's lakes and streams.

To view the film, follow this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-tGS6JQkr4> Or: www.FriendsofCS.org

"This threat is not imagined," said Bob Clarke of FOCS. "Here in the central sands many lakes are already impacted such as Lake Huron, Fish Lake, and Long Lake. A few months ago the Little Plover River in Portage County was named number 4 on the 2013 list of the 10 most endangered rivers in the United States by American Rivers. How many canaries do we need in the coal mine to realize the harm that is occurring?"

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Friends of the Central Sands (FOCS) works to promote a healthy Central Sands landscape through natural resource stewardship, community involvement, scientific knowledge and advocacy.