



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.

A nonprofit group of citizens, organizations, and businesses working for clean, safe, healthy lakes for everyone.

4513 Vernon Blvd., Suite 101 • Madison, WI 53705-4964
800-542-5253 (in WI) • 608-661-4313 • FAX 608-661-4314
wal@wisconsinlakes.org • www.wisconsinlakes.org

June 19, 2007

«House» «FirstName» «LastName»
«Room»
«Capitol»
«PO»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear «House» «LastName»:

Thank you for your continued efforts to increase funding for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention and management. Although only a small percentage of Wisconsin's lakes (approximately 500 to 1000 of Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes) have documented invasive species, preventing AIS introductions is still our first and best tool to protect lakes. We appreciate your support and hard work on this complex issue that concerns so many of our members.

We look forward to your continued leadership and support on AIS funding as the budget process moves into its next phase. Overall, we are pleased with the outcome of the Joint Finance Committee's deliberations and we strongly support maintaining the current appropriations.

However, we would like the Assembly to consider some small adjustments to the biennial budget with regard to AIS research, education, prevention, and monitoring.

Data gathered by citizen monitors is essential to evaluate whether AIS management tools are working. Unfortunately, when the Joint Finance Committee established a separate, biennial appropriation for AIS grants, the funding mechanism for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) of Aquatic Invasive Species was affected. We believe this was an inadvertent error. A small language change would remedy this unintended consequence so important citizen monitoring efforts continue to be funded at the same level.

Suggested budget amendments:

1. Convert the new Aquatic Invasives appropriation from a biennial to a continuing appropriation.
2. Change 281.68(2)(b) Wis. Stats. to read
"The total amount of lake monitoring contracts for each fiscal year may not exceed 10 percent of the total amount appropriated under s. 20.370 (6) (ar) & new AIS grant appropriation."

Funding for AIS research, education and prevention programs, and citizen monitoring, is a sound investment for the waterfront property values and tourism industries supported by healthy lakes. Sound scientific research can help us understand why different types of lakes respond differently to AIS introductions and treatments, and evaluate which AIS control treatments are most effective for different lake types.

Suggested budget amendment:

Generate revenues to support AIS research and public education by requiring every watercraft using Wisconsin's waters buy an annual \$5 AIS sticker.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter T. Murray
Executive Director, Wisconsin Association of Lakes