



# Wisconsin Association of Lakes

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

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

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Representative Spencer Black  
Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Room 210 North  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Black and committee members:

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes is pleased that the legislature is considering AB 162. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are a serious threat to the health of our lakes and concern to our members.

Many of our member Lake Districts and Lake Associations are spending a good portion of the annual operating budgets on suppressing existing AIS populations and preventing further introductions through educational programs, monitoring efforts, and volunteer watercraft inspection programs.

We are pleased that this bill offers some necessary technical changes to improve upon the “illegal to transport” language that was passed in the supplemental budget bill in May of 2008. Prohibiting the transport of “aquatic plants or animals” rather than “invasive species” is a significant and welcome change. These more general categories will enable law enforcement officials to make necessary traffic stops without needing to positively identify that attached materials are invasive species

Likewise, expanding the prohibition against launching watercraft with aquatic plants or animals attached to include any vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object of any kind eliminates an unnecessary loophole in the law. Removing the problematic intent clause in the current law—which prohibits launch of a boat if a person has “reason to believe” aquatic plants is attached—is also important. The intent clause (“reason to believe”) has made enforcement of the current law difficult.

The expansion of the Department of Natural Resources authority is both necessary and reasonable in order for the state to respond to invasive species that are new to Wisconsin, or are an increasing threat to Wisconsin resources. This provision will compliment and enhance the forthcoming aquatic invasive species classification rules (NR 40).

Thank you for your work on this important issue,

Tamara Jackson  
Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Director of Communications