

2023-2025 Wisconsin State Budget Requests and Talking Points

As your constituents and a person/people of faith I am/we're concerned about our environment. We cannot continue to treat our rich Wisconsin resources as endless commodities. There is a lot to advocate on to protect (may insert "God's" or other faith language) creation in the Governor's Budget. We are here to discuss three of those items: Focus on Energy, addressing PFAS, and local disaster plans to include climate change.

Focus on Energy (FOE) Requests

1. **Support increasing Focus on Energy funding.** The Governor's budget proposed doubling of the required utility contribution for the Focus on Energy program from 1.2 percent to 2.4 percent of annual operating revenues, which would generate an additional \$100 million in annual funding for the program.
 2. **Support modifying the types of eligible projects** under FOE to include those that deploy electric technologies to meet energy needs currently served by other fuel sources.
 3. **Add to the budget:** Utilizing the Focus on Energy Program to administer the distribution of grant funding that Wisconsin will receive from the federal Inflation Reduction Act.
- Energy efficiency is one of the easier steps we can take to decrease energy needs and to save money. FOE is an established proven program that is worth investing more into.
 - FOE programs generate between \$2 - \$4 in benefits for every dollar spent. Using less energy and saving money on utility bills benefits to individuals, businesses, schools, and local governments.
 - We especially support the benefits to people who cannot always afford to make their homes more energy efficient. Individuals and families with lower incomes often live in homes with poor energy efficiency, which increases their energy usage and utility bills, as well as the use of carbon-based fuels

Addressing the Problem of PFAS Requests

1. Funding for municipal grants to address known contamination.
 2. Testing Resources and Science Capacity at DNR: The Governor's proposal also includes funding to increase testing resources and science capacity at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist impacted communities.
 3. Removing PFAS from Food Packaging.
 4. Providing resources and support for private well owners impacted by PFAS contamination. This could be done through the state's well compensation program, which could help provide clean drinking water through filters, new wells, or connecting to municipal systems.
- High levels of PFAS in the human body are tied to increased cholesterol levels, decreases in how well the body responds to vaccines.
 - PFAS also increases the risk of thyroid disease, reduced fertility in women, increased risks of high blood pressure, and lower infant birth weights.
 - Wisconsinites in all of our communities deserve to have clean drinking water.

Adaptation to Climate Change (planning for disasters) Request

Support comprehensive plans developed by municipalities to address climate change, require that local hazard mitigation plans include consideration of climate change, and require communities throughout the state to include climate change impacts in their community health improvement assessment and plans.

- Destructive impacts from climate change will continue even if we would suddenly stop all greenhouse gas emissions today. Adaptation is one of the yearly topics at the United Nation's international climate conference called Conference of Parties (COP). The need for our world to make plans to adapt is real.
- Wisconsin has seen in recent years, more intense and frequent heavy rains due to climate change can result in flooding, eroding soil and coastlines, washing out roads and bridges, breaking dams, overwhelming sewers and wastewater treatment plants and causing greater algae blooms, bodily harm and illness. The need for all of our municipalities to adapt is real.