

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Wisconsin employers face an increasingly costly environmental regulatory climate. Many environmental regulations in Wisconsin are more stringent than what is necessary to protect the environment, and more stringent than what is required by other states. In addition, federal regulations on the electric power sector are driving significant increases in the cost of electricity. Wisconsin employers need affordable and reliable energy, and relief from costly and burdensome environmental regulations. The following initiatives will help level the playing field by making Wisconsin's environmental and energy cost structures more competitive.

✓ OPPOSE BURDENSOME EPA RULES

Continue to work with national partners to ensure federal environmental standards that are fair, affordable and easy to understand. Aggressively work with the State of Wisconsin and the legal system to push back against the onslaught of costly new federal environmental regulations.

✓ PREEMPT DUPLICATIVE AND BURDENSOME LOCAL REGULATIONS

Environmental regulations and permits are issued by the state DNR. Additional layers of local environmental regulations and permitting add cost and confusion for businesses. Prohibit local governments from establishing or imposing environmental standards or permits, and thereby reinforce the DNR as the sole environmental regulator in Wisconsin.

✓ ALIGN STATE AND FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Remove the cost and complexity of existing "Wisconsin only" environmental regulations, and work to ensure that newly promulgated rules are no more stringent than federal requirements.

✓ STREAMLINE AIR PERMITTING

Build upon existing permit streamlining tools and marshal recent legislative victories to fruition, including the creation of exemptions for small facilities and an increase in the threshold for registration permits.

✓ PROVIDE REGULATORY CERTAINTY TO THE GROWING SAND MINING INDUSTRY

Codify the DNR as the state's environmental regulator and protect lawfully operating mining operations from overzealous government regulation.

✓ PROVIDE RELIEF FOR NON-ATTAINMENT AREAS AFFECTED BY OUT-OF-STATE POLLUTANTS

Support an amendment to the Clean Air Act to include provisions providing relief to non-attainment areas in Wisconsin that violate air quality standards due to out-of-state emissions. The vast majority of pollutants triggering air quality violations in Wisconsin originate from outside our borders, and Wisconsin businesses and communities should not be punished for pollution from other states.

✓ ENSURE PREDICTABILITY IN GROUNDWATER PERMITTING

Maintain a fair and predictable permitting framework for high capacity well approvals that allow for growth among existing businesses and farms.

✓ AVOID EXPENSIVE ENERGY MANDATES, SUBSIDIES AND TAXES

Stop the escalation that has made electric rates in Wisconsin among the highest in the Midwest by rejecting the enactment of expensive energy mandates, unfair cost-shifting or new energy taxes.

✓ DEFINE THE LIMITS AND BOUNDARIES OF THE PUBLIC TRUST

Statutorily define the limits and boundaries of the public trust for Wisconsin waterways. Currently, there is no clear directive from the legislature regarding which waters fall into the public trust, nor the DNR's public trust regulatory authority. Leaving these critical questions subject to interpretation by the courts and DNR creates uncertainty and leads to costly and burdensome overregulation.

