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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Environment

FROM: Daniel Bahr, WCA Government Affairs Associate

DATE: January 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Support for Assembly Bill 792

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) supports AB 792 relating to expanding the Clean Sweep program to include collection of certain firefighting foams and making an appropriation. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), to collect and store or dispose of firefighting foams that contain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and that are voluntarily surrendered.

Most recently, county employees working in the areas of solid waste disposal and county land use and conservation departments have begun efforts to effectively keep PFAS out of the water supply. The WCA Government Affairs Staff, in consultation with experts at the county level, believe that AB 792 is a good step towards controlling the contamination of the water table with perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances. We view the bill as a common-sense effort to protect the drinking water supply and to address an issue that is becoming more salient as it related to water contamination.

WCA respectfully requests that the Committee support AB 792.

Please feel free to contact WCA if you need additional information.