



RESOLUTION# 19-6-8

Introduced by Judicial and Legislative Committee

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** As Amended - See below ***

LAD

Motion: LaFontaine Adopted: X
 1st LaFontaine Lost:
 2nd Clendenning Tabled:
 No: 2 Yes: 17 Absent: 0
 Number of votes required:
 Majority Two-thirds
 Reviewed by: PAK, Corp Counsel
 Reviewed by: _____, Finance Dir.

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To go on record in supporting enactment of AB21, a state legislative bill, which assists private well owners who have groundwater contamination from nitrates and other sources.

FISCAL NOTE: Unknown. Enactment of the proposed legislation requires the local unit of government to match economic assistance provided by the State to property owners in Wood County with contaminated wells.

As Amended

		NO	YES	A
1	LaFontaine, D		X	
2	Rozar, D		X	
3	Feirer, M		X	
4	Zaleski, J		X	
5	Fischer, A		X	
6	Breu, A		X	
7	Ashbeck, R		X	
8	Hahn, J		X	
9	Winch, W	X		
10	Holbrook, M	X		
11	Curry, K		X	
12	Machon, D		X	
13	Hokamp, M		X	
14	Polach, D		X	
15	Clendenning, B		X	
16	Pliml, L		X	
17	Zurfluh, J		X	
18	Hamilton, B		X	
19	Leichtnam, B		X	

WHEREAS, according to the Legislative Reference Bureau analysis of AB21:

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to administer a program to provide grants to counties, cities, villages, towns, and American Indian tribes and bands (local units of government) for the testing of privately owned wells. The bill also makes changes to the well compensation grant program currently administered by the DNR.

The bill provides that local units of government may apply for grants once in a fiscal biennium for testing privately owned wells, with an option for a second grant if adequate funding is available. A local unit of government must provide matching funds equal to the amount of the grant and must provide test results to the DNR within three months of conducting testing. The DNR is required to award grants equitably across the state, giving priority to regions where a significant number of private wells contain nitrate contamination above specified levels and regions where a significant number

of wells contain coliform bacteria or other contaminants at a level that exceeds applicable standards for public health.

Under current law, an individual owner or renter of a contaminated private well may apply for a grant from the DNR to cover a portion of the costs to treat the water, reconstruct the well, construct a new well, connect to a public water supply, or fill and seal the well. To be eligible for a grant, the well owner or renter's annual family income may not exceed \$65,000. In addition, if the well owner or renter's annual family income exceeds \$45,000, the amount of the award is reduced by 30 percent of the amount by which the annual family income exceeds \$45,000. The bill increases the family income limit to \$100,000 and increases the amount of annual family income that triggers a reduction of an award to \$65,000.

Under current law, a well that is contaminated only by nitrates is eligible for a grant only if the well is a water supply for livestock, is used at least three months in each year, and contains nitrates in excess of 40 parts per million. The bill eliminates these requirements and requires DNR to prioritize grants for wells with nitrate contamination above specified levels.

WHEREAS, the Judicial and Legislative Committee has studied AB21 and believes it is in the best interests of Wood County's residents for the state to pass the legislation,

William J. Clendenning
Bill Leichtenam
Ken Curry
Brad Hamilton
Jake Hahn
 Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this _____ day of _____, 2019.

 County Clerk

BILL CLENDENNING (Chairman)
BILL LEICHTNAM
KEN CURRY
BRAD HAMILTON
JAKE HAHN
 _____ day of June, 2019

 County Board Chairman



RESOLUTION# _____

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NOW, THEREFORE, THE WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY RESOLVES to go on record to:

1. State that it supports enactment of AB21 and its efforts to address groundwater contamination from nitrates and other sources.
2. To request all state legislators who represent any part of Wood County to support AB21.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to all state legislators who represent any part of Wood County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution to referred to the Wisconsin Counties Association so as to be considered at the WCA Annual Business Meeting.

Motion by LaFontaine/Clendenning to adopt Resolution 19-6-8. Motion by Pliml/Feirer to amend the resolution as follows:

The current Intent & Synopsis would be stricken and replaced as follows. "To go on record in supporting those provisions in both SB137 and AB21 which are most beneficial to Wood County in combatting the contamination of groundwater by nitrates and other sources."

The second Whereas of the resolution would be stricken and replaced as follows: "Whereas the Wood County Board of Supervisors has studied both SB137 and AB21 that generally supports legislation that protects groundwater from all sources of contamination."

The numbered points in the Now. Therefore the Wood County Board of Supervisors Hereby resolves section would be stricken and replaced as follows:

1. State that it supports enactment of current provisions of both SB137 and AB21 and any effort to address groundwater contamination from nitrates and other sources that would be most beneficial to the residents of Wood County.
2. To request legislators of Wood County and central Wisconsin to work together to draft comprehensive legislation to address this issue.

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Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

County Clerk

County Board Chairman