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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 38TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 47: Relating to membership of boards of commissioners established for public lake protection and rehabilitation districts

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Thank you Chairman Cowles and members of the Committee on Natural Resources for holding a hearing today on Assembly Bill 47, relating to the membership of Lake Management District Boards.

The Lake Management District Boards throughout Wisconsin are the bodies responsible for enacting boating ordinances and receiving state funding for use towards local water safety patrols.

Current law provides that the district boards consist of 5 members. One person who is a member of the county land conservation committee or his designee, three owners of property within the district, and one member of the governing body of the largest municipality within the district.

Since current law does not allow the governing body to appoint a designee to the board, if a town or village board does not have a member willing to serve on the board, the seat will remain vacant. This constant vacancy creates quorum problems and makes it harder for the board to conduct business as usual.

Our bill makes a simple change, it will allow the governing body of the largest municipality in the district to appoint a designee to serve on their behalf. This small change will provide needed flexibility to our state's Lake District Boards who each conduct important business for the districts they serve.

I am happy to be joined today by Mr. Robert Hultquist, town chair for the Town of Oconomowoc, who brought this proposal to my attention last session. He serves on the Lac La Belle Management District and is here to testify in greater detail about what this change would mean for the board.