



Adam Neylon

State Representative • 98th Assembly District

DATE: June 10, 2021

FROM: State Representative Adam Neylon

TO: Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities

RE: Supporting AB 393

Chairman Kuglitsch and Members of the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities thank you for holding a hearing on AB 393.

As you may know, the City of Waukesha was told by the State of Wisconsin and a federal judge over a decade ago that their water was unsafe due to high levels of radium in their aquifer. Subsequently the City of Waukesha collaborated with the WI DNR to work on a solution for the 72,000 people living in the City of Waukesha, and they determined the only viable solution was to divert water from Lake Michigan to the City of Waukesha. Subsequently, the City of Waukesha asked all of the Governors in the United States that surround the Great Lakes if they could divert water from Lake Michigan to meet both state and federal water quality standards. The Governors agreed, and the City of Waukesha became the first city ever to receive approval via the Great Lakes Compact to divert water from a Great Lake.

As you would imagine, the infrastructure necessary to transport water from Lake Michigan 20 miles west to the City of Waukesha is costly, which is why we're here today to ask for \$530,000 of the \$10 billion Wisconsin received from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. A major component of the infrastructure is a water supply control system, which costs about \$1.2 million. These funds are crucial to project and I hope the citizens of Waukesha can count on your support.



SCOTT ALLEN

REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

June 10, 2021

**Testimony before the Committee on Energy and Utilities
On 2021 AB 393**

Chairman Kuglitsch, members of the Committee, thank you for permitting me to testify today.

For the past several years, the Waukesha Water Utility has sought a new source of drinking water to comply with radium standards. As you know, the city requested a diversion from Lake Michigan. The project has been approved, and construction is progressing. The project includes facilities and systems for providing and processing water and wastewater, and like every project undertaken, some changes have been necessary. One of those changes deals with the water supply control system.

A switch in the location of the reservoirs and pump station required changes to the project and created an issue with the flow control system. That left a budget deficit of around \$1.2 million. Of course, these expenses will likely be passed on to ratepayers in the utility district.

AB 393 simply provides the following: via non-statutory provisions, the bill directs the governor to use funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund a grant that will be awarded by the DOA.

Based on a previous proposal earlier this year, it seems Gov. Evers may be favorably disposed towards the project receiving funds. Let's give him the opportunity.

Thank you for your time today. I'm happy to take any questions you may have.