

A Big Week Ahead in Madison

This week is shaping up to be a barnburner in Madison. The full Assembly will be in session for only two more days — Tuesday and Thursday — and we expect a Senate committee to hold a hearing on both the **good bill (SB 1024)** and the **bad bill (SB 1025)**.

We're hearing that the Senate hearing could take place **this Thursday, February 19**. Please mark your calendar and be ready to make your voice heard. As soon as the hearing is officially scheduled, we will share the time and room number.

Thank Our Legislative Champions

Before we dive into the latest developments in the Assembly and Senate, we want to recognize our lake champions — the legislators who have stepped up to oppose the bad bill and stand behind a better solution.

Please take a moment to call their office or send a quick email to thank them for standing up to the powerful out-of-state special interests we're battling. Your appreciation makes a difference!

State Senate – Good Bill Sponsors

Senator [Rachael Cabral-Guevara](#) – Senate District 19 – (R) Fox Crossing

Senator [Andre Jacque](#) – Senate District 1 – (R) New Franken

State Assembly – Good Bill Sponsors

Representative [Nate Gustafson](#) – Assembly District 55 – (R) Omro

Representative [Joy Goeben](#) – Assembly District 5 – (R) Hobart

Democratic Friends Stepping up!

Representative [Andrew Hysell](#) – Assembly District 48 – (D) Sun Prairie

Representative [Vincent Miresse](#) – Assembly District 71 – (D) Stevens Point

Senator [Jodi Habush Sinykin](#) – Senate District 8 – (D) Whitefish Bay

We're especially grateful to Reps Hysell and Miresse for coming to the Assembly committee hearing last week and testifying to the fact the **bad bill does NOT specifically provide for local control** in the text of the bill. In fact the bad bill undermines local control.

Republican Friends Stepping up!

Representative [Rick Gundrum](#) – Assembly District 58 – (R) Slinger

Representative [Calvin Callahan](#) – Assembly District 35 (R) Tomahawk

We want to highlight and thank the two GOP members of the Assembly listed above, **who have publicly told their constituents that they will be voting NO** on AB 1033.

And with your help we will be adding more lake champions to this list over the next few days!

Note that we need the Democrats in the legislature to hold 100% firm to protect our lakes and vote against the bad bill. Defeat of the bad bill is very possible if Democrats hold firm and more lake champions in the GOP step up and commit to vote against AB 1033.

The Bad Bill (AB 1033) - Where do we stand?

There was an Assembly committee hearing on AB 1033 last week and the bad bill was voted through along party lines on a 7-3 vote, with all Republicans voting 'yes' and all Democrats voting 'no.' Despite that outcome, the public turnout was excellent and the vast majority of the speakers were against the bad bill.

You can read a summary of that hearing from our newsletter [HERE](#).

You can watch the testimony from Wisconsin Eye [HERE](#).

You can watch a Fox 6 Milwaukee news report on the hearing [HERE](#).

The bad bill could come to the floor of the full Assembly for a vote this week on either Tuesday or Thursday when floor sessions are scheduled. The calendar for the Tuesday floor sessions was released Friday night and AB 1033 was **not on the docket** as of this writing. That said, AB 1033 could still be brought to the full floor at anytime.

The diversity of opposition to AB 1033 is extensive:

Conservative Milwaukee talk radio host Dan O'Donnell [is against the bill](#).

The Sierra Club of Wisconsin officially registered [against the bill](#).

The Towns Association and League of Municipalities [also registered against the bill](#), fearing it could be a Trojan Horse designed to gut local control.

Even the conservative MacIver Institute [wrote a piece critical of AB 1033](#).

All the official lobbying groups that have registered against the bill are at [this LINK](#).

Note that our counter bill introduced by [Rep. Gustafson](#) and [Rep. Goeben](#) in the Assembly has **NOT YET BEEN GIVEN A BILL NUMBER**. For the moment it is known as LRB-6365. The assignment of a bill number must come from Assembly Leadership and they seem to be slow walking this one.

We need you to keep calling!

While emails to legislative offices are helpful, a **phone call is far more effective**. You can find your State Assembly Representative and State Senators by clicking the link below. Just enter your address, and you'll be ready to take action.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR](#)

If you already called last week, **make another call this week**. Ask them how they plan on voting on these bills (bad bill and good bill).

Note that we are asking you to make two calls. One to your Assembly Representative **and** a separate call to your State Senator's office.

Tell your legislators that:

- AB 1033 doesn't provide a meaningful distance from shore to protect shorelines and fish habitat.
- The bill is purposely silent on allowing local control, which could lead to the gutting of local ordinances.
- The bill does not set any minimum water depth requirement for safe wake-surfing operations.
- It is insulting to the citizens of Wisconsin that a bill of such importance to voters would be introduced on a Monday with a hearing 36-hours later.

Voice your opinion respectfully and professionally but loud and proud. **Tell them to reject AB 1033/SB 1025.**

Dueling Bills now in the State Senate

This week the bad bill Senate Sponsor [Dan Feyen](#) (R-Fond Du Lac) introduced the Senate cohort to AB 1033, namely [Senate Bill SB 1025](#).

Meanwhile our Senate Champions Rachael Cabral-Guevara and Andre Jacque did get **Senate Bill SB 1024** introduced. This is the **good bill** that provides wakesurfing 500 feet from shore, in 20 foot minimum depth, with full local control spelled out in the bill.

Both Senate bills have been referred to the [Committee on Transportation and Government](#) which is chaired by [Senator Cory Tomczyk](#) – (R-Mosinee).

We are hearing that there will be a Senate committee hearing on both bills this Thursday, February 19th in Madison. Note that this date is not yet official. That said, **please plan to come to Madison this Thursday**. We will provide more details as they become available.

One good way to remember the good bill is that we are **FOR SB 1024 (FOUR)**.