

Resolution # 1018

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF OAKLAND
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON**

RE: Ban on the sale and application of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus.

WHEREAS public waterways in the Town of Oakland and throughout WI are important natural resources used by the public for recreation and enjoyment of natural beauty; and

WHEREAS phosphorus pollution causes excessive plant and algae growth, with one pound of phosphorus producing up to 500 pounds of algae; and

WHEREAS such plant and algae growth causes poor water clarity, weed-choked recreational areas and low dissolved oxygen levels, harming fish and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS such diminished water quality from phosphorus pollution lowers property values and harms the tourism and outdoor recreation industry; and

WHEREAS phosphorus discharges from industry, wastewater treatment plants and agricultural operations are limited by regulation, while unnecessary phosphorus enters Wisconsin waterways from the use of lawn fertilizers; and

WHEREAS statutory authority to limit the sale or application of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus requires each local government in an affected area to enact similar regulatory ordinances; and

WHEREAS a waterway negatively affected by phosphorus is often not in the same municipality as where the point of sale or use of lawn fertilizer occurred; and

WHEREAS regulation in Wisconsin is patchwork at best as a result of limited authority to regulate phosphorus uses,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Oakland Board hereby requests that its legislative representatives sponsor a new state law similar to laws of the State of Minnesota which prohibit the sale or application of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus, or, in the alternative, to sponsor legislation authorizing county governments to adopt county-wide ordinances prohibiting the sale or use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus (subject to limited exceptions), in which statutory authorization would make such county ordinances applicable to incorporated cities, towns and villages.

Adopted this 15th day of May, 2007

By a vote of: 4 in favor 0 against 0 abstain

BY: Veronica Heenan
Secretary, Town of Oakland