



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Court Decision in WMC Lawsuit Endangers Public Health *Peshtigo Town Board Remains Committed to Protecting Residents*

Protection of the Wisconsin environment and the health of all Wisconsinites is a critical governmental function. The people of Wisconsin are entitled to clean water, clean air, and the assurance that their use of our rich natural resources, whether for daily necessities, business purposes, or recreation and enjoyment, will not expose them to unreasonable hazards. We all depend on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to safeguard us against serious environmental risks, and the Wisconsin Legislature has given the DNR broad authority to compel responsible parties to clean up spills of dangerous contaminants. The Town of Peshtigo is disappointed to learn of Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Michael Bohren's ruling that the DNR lacks authority to require polluters to respond to spills of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Wisconsin, absent issuance of further regulatory standards. The dangers posed by PFAS chemicals are only too well known in the Town of Peshtigo. For decades, private interests profiting from the uncontrolled use and free, unregulated release of these carcinogenic chemicals into our environment have concealed their true hazards and deceived regulators and the public. This ruling rewards their bad behavior by deferring responsible action yet again. We expect the ruling to be overturned on appeal and look forward to that eventuality.
