

Update On Wisconsin Frac Sand Mining Issues

Preserving Local Control over Fra Sand Mining Operations!

Continued Action Needed to Oppose SB 349

In October 2013, Senator Tom Tiffany (R–Hazelhurst) introduced Senate Bill 349, which would preempt local regulation of non-metallic mining operations, including frac sand mines.

WFU, citizen groups, and local governments strongly opposed this bill, believing that towns and counties are in the best position to protect the health and safety of their citizens. SB 349 would severely limit the authority of local governments to pass ordinances to protect roads, manage mine hours of operation, dust, light, and noise, and mitigate impacts on homes and businesses. Many resolutions of opposition were passed at the local level.



Round 2 - Get Prepared For the Next Stage

While October's show of united opposition pulled support away from the bill, and the sponsors were forced to delay action, they promised to refine the bill and bring it back for consideration. We expect that this will happen over the next few months. At this point, it appears that the sponsors have agreed to remove provisions that were of most concern to county governments, and that it will focus more specifically on restricting the toolbox of regulations that are available to Towns. We need to push back with a unified voice.

Our Message is Clear...No Version of This Bill is OK. Local Control Must Not Be Weakened.

How to Oppose the Frac Sand Preemption Bill (SB 349):

- 1) **Call your state Senator** and ask him or her to oppose Senate Bill 349.

To find out who your representatives are and how to contact them, use this link:

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/pages/waml.aspx>

Mention some of the problems with SB 349:

- Different areas of the state require individualized regulations for mining. A one-sized fits all approach does not make sense in this case.
- The state DNR doesn't have the person power to take on all of this new oversight. Local governments, not the DNR, are in a better position to manage local impacts.
- The bill would limit the ability of local municipalities to recover the cost of road repairs from the trucks hauling sand. At the same time, roads are deteriorating faster than they can be repaired. This means more damaged road in our state and a greater cost to the taxpayer to repair them.



3) **Contact you town and county board representatives** and make sure they know that this bill will tie the hands of local government. Ask them to follow the lead of Counties such as Douglas, Pepin, Crawford, Dane Dunn and Eau Claire, and numerous Town boards, that have passed resolutions opposing Senate Bill 349.

4) **Stay Posted for the Latest Updates**. “Like” Wisconsin Farmers Union on Facebook. Watch for updates on the various local and regional frac sand group sites (e.g. Frac Sand Sentinel). We will need to mobilize all of our supporters for action as this bill is re-introduced.

Other WI Farmers Union Frac Sand Projects

Economic Impacts of Frac Sand Mining – Part Two - In 2013, WI Farmers Union, in partnership with the WI Towns Assoc. and IATP, contracted with Dr. Thomas Power to complete Part One of a study on the economic impact of frac sand mining. Dr Power (Univ. of MT) is one of the leading national experts in this field. Part One of his report “Economic Impacts of Frac Sand Mining in Western WI” was released in March of 2013. Farmers Union is now working to secure funds to complete Phase Two of the study which look more closely at the measurable impacts of the industry now that it has been operating for several years. The Part One of the Power report can be accessed on the WFU web-site: www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com.

For more information, contact Kara (Slaughter) O’Connor, WFU Government Relations Director 608-514-4541 [/koconnor@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:koconnor@wisconsinfarmersunion.com). Tom Quinn, Exec. Director, tquinn@wisconsinfarmersunion.com 715-723-5561.