



# JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

## *Senate Bill 128*

May 13, 2015

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today on Senate Bill 128.

Senate Bill 128 eliminates Chapter NR 128 of the administrative code, which deals with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) rules related to the administration of two financial assistance programs - point source pollution abatement projects and sewer overflow abatement projects – which have not provided financial assistance since 1990. The types of projects funded under both of these programs are now funded through the clean water fund program.

In addition, DNR once had authority over a program to provide grants to repair or replace failing private on-site wastewater treatment systems, however this program is now administered by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). Through the repeal of Chapter NR 128, this bill eliminates the administrative rules that implement those program, some of which have not been utilized for 25 years.

These changes reflect the goal of the Assembly's Red Tape Review, formerly Right the Rules, of removing obsolete regulations to ensure the rules are current and serve a purpose. When the intended purpose of the code is no longer being met, it is prudent to periodically reassess and repeal the rules no longer needed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

29TH SENATE DISTRICT

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STATE OF WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE  
BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

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TESTIMONY PRESENTED IN THE MATTER OF  
**SENATE BILL 128 (LRB-1934/1)**  
May 13, 2015

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Good morning Chairman Cowles and members of the Committee. My name is Robin Schmidt and I am the DNR section chief for the wastewater and drinking water revolving loan programs. Thank you for this opportunity to testify, for information only, on Senate Bill 128, which will repeal ch. NR 128, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

In 1987, changes to the federal Clean Water Act transformed the construction grant program administered by the WI DNR through ch. NR 128, to the current Clean Water Fund State Revolving Loan Program, administered by DNR through the current ch. NR 162. This change from a grant program to a revolving loan program ensured long term funding and stability for the financing of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects. Since the original grant program no longer exists and the 20-year design life of projects funded through the grant program has been surpassed it would be appropriate to repeal ch. NR 128.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have or provide further information to the committee and its members.