FLOOR RESOLUTION 5

REQUEST FOR THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES AT UW-MADISON AND UW-EXTENSION TO DEVELOP NITROGEN APPLICATION RATE GUIDELINES FOR GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

WHEREAS, more than 2/3 of Wisconsin residents obtain drinking water from groundwater and nitrate is the most common contaminant of groundwater in our state; and

WHEREAS, Local, State and Federal programs require use of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service 590 Nutrient Management Standard, which dictates use of the UW-Extension Publication A2809 “Nutrient Application Guidelines for Field, Vegetable, and Fruit Crops in Wisconsin”; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Madison nitrogen recommendations contained in A2809 were developed to maximize economic profitability, not to protect groundwater and drinking water quality; and

WHEREAS, the most recent revision of A2809 by UW-Madison contains increased nitrogen application rate recommendations on corn; and

WHEREAS, farmers striving to voluntarily reduce nitrogen applications to rates that will allow for drinking water nitrate levels below the 10 parts per million enforcement limit have no guidance to do so; and

WHEREAS, fertilized public and private lawns, golf courses and fertilized public and private green spaces contribute to nitrates in groundwater;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association hereby request the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW-Madison and UW-Extension to develop nitrogen application rate guidelines for groundwater protection, in relation to agricultural cropland as well as fertilized lawns, golf courses, and green spaces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Wisconsin provide funding and other necessary resources to aid in this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be directed to the attention of all State Legislators, the Governor and the President of the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Adopted at the Business Meeting of WI Land+Water March 15, 2019.