



TO: Rep. Thomas Weatherston, Chairman, Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care  
Members, Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care

FROM: Paul G. Kent and Liz Stephens  
Municipal Environmental Group – Wastewater Division

DATE: September 5, 2017

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 444

The Municipal Environmental Group – Wastewater Division (“MEG”) is a statewide association representing more than 100 municipal wastewater treatment facilities. For 25 years, MEG has been active in the development of policies that promote safe and effective wastewater management activities.

MEG supports Assembly Bill 444 (“AB 444”) and appreciates the efforts that its author, Rep. Joan Ballweg, is seeking to promote to ensure the safety of Wisconsin’s water resources. AB 444 is an important step in reducing the amount of pharmaceuticals in our water resources and, resultantly, MEG encourages the adoption of this legislation.

Wastewater treatment plants are currently unable to remove pharmaceuticals from wastewater during the treatment process because they are not designed for pharmaceutical removal. As a result, reducing sources of pharmaceuticals to the water system is currently the best way to confront this challenge. Encouraging the safe and proper disposal of pharmaceuticals, as AB 444 does, will begin to address this growing problem and will assist in reducing the amount of pharmaceuticals in our water resources.

In light of the foregoing, MEG respectfully requests that the Committee support AB 444. In addition, MEG remains willing to work with this Committee and the Legislature to address the issue of pharmaceuticals in our water systems.