



MILWAUKEE WATER COMMONS

February 23, 2024

Governor Tony Evers
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Evers,

We write today needing you to uphold Wisconsin's State Constitution. The advancement of SB 541 once again puts the protection of our common waters and "public trust lands" at risk, and compromises our Public Trust Doctrine. SB 541 needs to be vetoed.

SB 541 unconstitutionally permits the conversion of "public trust lands" to private ownership and private use. Some conversions would occur automatically, on the effective date of the legislation, and others could be approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources through a "Waterfront Development Plan".

As we continue to make historic investments in the restoration of the Great Lakes region, and we are actively investing in efforts to de-list the Milwaukee Estuary as an Area of Concern, with an eye toward equity, we cannot waiver from the strength and legacy of the Public Trust Doctrine and allow our public natural spaces to be lost forever. There will always be short sighted efforts to profit off of our public waters and shorelines. We have the strength of the Public Trust Doctrine to prevent these further environmental injustices. We implore you to veto SB 541.

With Gratitude,

Brenda Coley
Co-Executive Director
Milwaukee Water Commons

Kirsten Shead
Co-Executive Director
Milwaukee Water Commons



MILWAUKEE WATER COMMONS

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