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SENATE LEADERSHIP OVERRULES OWN COMMITTEE ON A BILL THAT WILL BE UNFAIR TO WI RESIDENTS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE STATE

BRINGS AB 675 -- CONTROVERSIAL "TAKINGS" BILL--TO FLOOR DESPITE FAILURE IN COMMITTEE

Senate Republican Leadership today ran roughshod over its own committee recommendations when it scheduled a full Senate floor vote for Wednesday (5/3) on a radical bill that would effectively halt most governmental regulations regarding property use in Wisconsin, according to 1000 Friends of Wisconsin.

Yesterday, the Senate Committee on Housing and Financial Institutions voted 4-3 *against* passage of AB 675, a radical proposal modeled on the state of Oregon's "Measure 37" that would severely limit the ability of the state and all local governments to change or enforce any environmental or land use rules and regulations and cost local governments untold amounts of money to administer and process compensation and waiver claims. The Committee vote followed the recommendations of nearly all of those who testified at the hearing to stop the controversial bill from moving forward.

"The Senate Committee heard informed testimony about the many problems that will face landowners and all levels of government in the state if this legislation passes. Uncertainty about permitted land uses and how and when landowners would be paid for "devaluation" associated with regulations has flooded Oregon State and local governments with landowner compensation claims that currently exceed \$3 *billion*. And the lawsuits on these issues are just getting started," said Lisa MacKinnon, Policy Director for 1000 Friends of Wisconsin.

The decision to bring a bill to the floor for a full senate vote despite its failure to pass out of a senate committee is a rare occurrence, and is perplexing the many people who testified against AB 675 and heard concerns about the bill from committee members on both sides of the aisle.

"The Senate Republican Leadership, on the last day of general legislative business, is forcing this bill through when it has no senate sponsors and only one sponsor in the entire legislature, it has a devastating track record in the state from which it was imported, and it has bi-partisan opposition in both houses and broad opposition from citizens across the state," said MacKinnon. "This is an unbelievably cynical move that disrespects the legislative process and the people of Wisconsin."

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