

FYI Issue Tracking Summary for 2025-2026

September 25, 2025

Below are issues on which WUA is either actively engaged or monitoring for the 2025-2026 Legislative Session. The latest actions are in italics.

AB 25/SB 28 ROFR (Peterson, LeMahieu) – Granting incumbent Wisconsin transmission providers the Right of First Refusal to right to construct, own, and maintain certain transmission facilities and Public Service Commission procedures if the transmission facility is a regionally cost-shared transmission line. WUA supports and testified in favor of these bills. Introduced February 13th and 12th respectively these bills were referred to the Energy & Utilities and Utilities and Tourism Committees, respectively. *SA 1 was introduced March 3rd by Sen. LeMahieu and AA 1 by Rep. Brooks the same day. A joint public hearing was held on both bills March 4th. AA 2 was offered by Rep. Knodl March 6th.*

SJR-007 Nuclear Power (Bradley, Julian) Recognizing that the Wisconsin State Legislature supports nuclear power and fusion energy as clean energy sources that are critical to safely meeting Wisconsin's growing energy demands and declaring the legislature's commitment to the continuation and expansion of nuclear power and nuclear technologies, the development of nuclear technologies and fusion energy, and employing the leadership and resources necessary to support the development of and investment in nuclear power, fusion energy, and related technologies in the state. Referred to Senate Committee on Organization. *WUA supports. SJR 7 was adopted March 18th 27-5 messaged to the Assembly. On June 24 it was concurred-in by the Assembly.*

AJR-006 Nuclear Power (Steffen, David) Recognizing that the Wisconsin State Legislature supports nuclear power and fusion energy as clean energy sources that are critical to safely meeting Wisconsin's growing energy demands and declaring the legislature's commitment to the continuation and expansion of nuclear power and nuclear technologies, the development of nuclear technologies and fusion energy, and employing the leadership and resources necessary to support the development of and investment in nuclear power, fusion energy, and related technologies in the state. WUA supports. It was introduced March 17th and was referred to Assembly Committee on Rules. *On June 24 it was tabled in favor of SJR 7.*

AB 59/SB 56 Lead Water Line Replacement (Green, Quinn) Allowing a private water utility access to WDNR Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, currently only available to municipal water systems. WUA supports these bills. *AB 59 was introduced February 24 and referred to the Energy & Utilities Committee. SB 56 was introduced February 21 and referred to the Utilities and Tourism Committee. A public hearing on SB 56 was held April 30th. WUA registered in favor. SB 56 was approved by the Committee 3-2 (Ratcliff, Smith) on May 6. SB 56 passed the Senate 17-16 on May 15th and was messaged to the Assembly. The Assembly Energy & Utilities Committee held a public hearing on May 28th on AB 59 and WUA registered in favor. On June 4 the committee recommended passage of AB 59 on an 8-5 vote and referred it to the Rules Committee. AB 59 was substituted for SB 56 and was concurred-in by the Assembly on a voice vote on June 24. The Governor signed the bill on July 2 as 2025 WI Act 8.*

AB 7/SB 3 Local Approval (Tranel, Marklein) Requiring local government approval for renewables projects before the PSCW could grant a CPCN or CA. WUA opposes these bills. SB 3 was introduced January 24 and referred to

the Senate Utilities & Tourism Committee. AB 7 was introduced February 6th and referred to the Assembly Energy & Utilities Committee.

[AB108 /SB 125 Bill History](#) - Nuclear Power Siting Study (Sortwell, Steffen, Bradley) This bill requires the PSC to conduct a nuclear power siting study and requires PSC to take final action on an application for a CPCN for a large electric generating facility that contains an advanced nuclear reactor within 150 days after the application is complete, unless the chairperson of PSC extends the time period for no more than an additional 150 days for good cause. WUA supports these bills. AB 108 was introduced on 3/11/2025 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Jobs and Economy. [Assembly Amendment 1](#) to AB 108 was offered by Representative Steffen on April 16. *It received a public hearing April 23rd.* SB 125 was introduced March 14 and referred to the Utilities & Tourism Committee. [Senate Amendment 1](#) offered by Senator Bradley on April 28th. [\(SA 1 amendment memo\)](#) A public hearing was held on SB 125 on April 30th and WUA registered in favor. SA 1 was adopted 5-0 and the Committee recommended passage, as amended, 5-0 on May 6. SB 125 passed the Senate, as amended by SA 1, 28-5 on May 15th and was messaged to the Assembly. *It was concurred-in by the Assembly on June 24.* Executive action was taken on AB 108 on June 6 and the Committee recommended passage, as amended by [AA 1](#) on [an 8-2 vote](#). On June 24 AB 108 was tabled in favor of SB 125 which was concurred-in. *It was signed by the Governor as [2025 WI Act 12](#) on July 2.*

[AB 106/SB 96 EV Charging Tax Exemption](#) (Vandermeer, Marklein) These bills create an exemption from the EV charging tax for residential chargers. WUA supports these bills. They were introduced March 7 and March 11 respectively and referred to their respective utility committees. A public hearing was held on SB 96 on April 30th. WUA registered in favor. SB 96 was approved by the Committee, 5-0 on May 6. SB 96 passed the Senate 33-0 on May 15th and was messaged to the Assembly. On May 22, the bills were referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions. *The Committee found the bill(s) to be [good public policy](#) on a 9-0 vote on May 28.*

[SB124/ AB 132 View Bill History](#) Nuclear Power Summit (Bradley, Steffen) These bills create a board to organize, promote, and host a Wisconsin nuclear power summit and make an appropriation. WUA supports these bills. SB 124 was introduced on 3/14/2025 and referred to the Committee on Utilities and Tourism. AB 132 was introduced March 13 and referred to the Jobs & the Economy Committee. On 4/15/2025 [Assembly Amendment 1](#) was offered by Representative Steffen. *It received a public hearing on April 23rd.* [Senate Amendment 1](#) to SB 124 was offered by Sen. Bradley April 28th and a public hearing on SB 124 was held April 30th. WUA registered in favor. SA 1 was approved 5-0 and the Committee recommended passage, as amended, May 6. *AB 132 was recommended for passage, as amended by [AA 1](#), June 6 on an [8-2 vote](#).* On June 18, SB 124 passed the Senate on a voice vote and was messaged to the Assembly where it was concurred-in on June 24. *The Governor signed the bill on July 2 as [2025 WI Act 11](#).*

[AB-145/SB 150 Carbon Emissions](#) (Moore Omokunde, Larson) These bills require the Legislature, during the 2025-26 legislative session, to pass legislation creating a viable plan to reduce carbon emissions by 52 percent by 2030 and a plan for achieving carbon neutral emissions by 2050. Any plan must maximize the impact of the plan on improving economic and racial equity. *AB 145 was introduced March 17 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Environment. SB 150 was introduced March 21 and referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development.*

[AB 69/SB 80 Sales & Use Tax Exemption for Residential Electricity and Gas](#) (Murphy, Jacque) – WUA does not object to these bills. AB 69 was introduced February 24th and referred to Ways & Means Committee. SB 90 was introduced March 7 and referred to the Agriculture and Revenue Committee. *Similar provisions were adopted in the biennial budget on June 2.*

[AB174 View Bill History](#) Wisconsin Energy Reform Act (O'Connor) – This bill, 1) establishes a competitive bidding requirement for certain transmission facility contracts and establishes an audit process to review such contracts; 2) grants certain rights to incumbent transmission facility owners; 3) imposes

requirements on the construction of large wind energy systems, large solar energy systems, and battery energy storage systems, including the purchase of certain agricultural conservation easements when such systems are located on prime farmland; 4) makes nuclear energy a state policy priority; and 5) requires the installation of light-mitigating technology systems on certain wind energy systems and transmission line towers. *It was introduced on 4/14/2025 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities.*

SB 255/AB 254 Regulation of the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company (Summerfield, James) These bills make the following changes regarding the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company:

1. Allow tolls to be levied and used to pay for acquisition and improvement of the company's reservoir system.
2. Allow tolls to be levied to recover the costs of taxes and depreciation and to provide a reasonable allowance for working capital.
3. Make a water power operator that operates for at least two months of a six-month toll period subject to tolls for the entire six-month toll period.
4. Eliminate the restriction under current law that restricts negotiable interest-bearing bonds issued by the company from funding no more than half of the cost of acquiring dams, reservoirs, and rights.
5. Eliminate the prohibition under current law against the company from paying dividends to its stockholders while any of its bonds are outstanding, and also eliminates the current law requirement that if any company bonds are outstanding, subject to PSC approval, the earnings of the capital stock must be invested in a sinking fund to retire the outstanding bonds.

WUA supports these bills. AB 254 was introduced May 8th, referred to the State Affairs Committee and a public hearing was held May 14th. Executive action was taken May 21 and *on May 29 the Committee recommended passage, 10-0. The bill was tabled June 24 in favor of SB 255.* SB 255 was introduced May 9th, referred to the Utilities & Tourism Committee and a public hearing was held May 20th. The Committee recommended passage on Jun 3 on a 5-0 vote. SB 255 passed the Senate on a voice vote June 18 and was messaged to the Assembly where it was concurred-in on June 24 and awaits the Governor's signature. *On August 8th Governor Evers signed the bill into law as [2025 WI Act 31](#).*

AB 242/SB 236 Wire Tampering (Summerfield, James) WUA supports these bills which apply current penalties for tampering with telecom and electric wires to broadband facilities and wireless services. SB 236 was introduced May 9, referred to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee and received a hearing on May 27, was recommended for passage, as amended by [SA 1](#) (adds wireless service), on June 5 on an 8-0 vote. It was taken up by the Senate June 18 and *tabled in favor of AB 242.* AB 242 was introduced May 2 and referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. It had a hearing on May 7 and [AA 1](#) (adds wireless service) was adopted May 15, 12-1. The Committee recommended passage, as amended, May 29 on a 12-1 vote. On June 18 it passed both the Assembly (as amended) and Senate on voice votes. AB 242 was signed into law by the Governor August 8 as [2025 WI Act 30](#).

SB 244/AB 245 Sales and use tax exemption for co-located data centers (Quinn, Zimmerman) WUA supports these bills which expand the exemption to co-located and condominium-style data centers. SB 244 was introduced May 9 and referred to the Ag & Revenue Committee, had a hearing on May 21 and [SA 1](#) was offered June 2. AB 245 was introduced May 2 and referred to the Assembly Ways & Means Committee *and [AA1](#) was offered September 2.*

AB 352/SB 360 Mylar Balloons (Sinicki, Carpenter) WUA supports these bills which prohibit the outside release of 10 or more mylar balloons, subject to a \$500 fine, with certain exceptions. *AB 352 was introduced July 8 and*

referred to the Environment Committee. It received a public hearing September 25. SB 360 was introduced June 27 and referred to the Natural Resources Committee.

LRB 0693/4730 Community Solar (Testin, Krug) These bills allow for the creation of a community solar program by non-utility entities in Wisconsin and granting rulemaking authority. *Circulated for co-sponsorship through September 24, not yet introduced. WUA opposes these bills.*

LRB 4710 Nuclear Provisions (Sortwell) This bill creates a nuclear energy generation tax credit; prioritizes nuclear energy resources at the beginning of the energy priorities statute; allows for approval of certain electric tariffs for very large customers; and authorizes electric utilities to recover certain precertification costs through rates. *This bill is currently circulating for co-sponsorship.*

Watchlist

- **[SB 7 Land Acquisition](#)** (Jacque, Andre) Prohibiting a foreign adversary from acquiring agricultural or forestry land in this state. *A public hearing was held on June 4.*
- **[AB 274, SB 277 Regulatory Sunsetting](#)** (Rep. Neylon, Sen. Nass)
- **[SB 289/AB 277 Regulatory Budgeting](#)** (Rep. Gustafson, Sen. Bradley)
- **[AB 276, SB 275 One Rule Per Scope Statement](#)** (Rep. Knodl, Sen. Hutton)
- **[AB 275, SB 276 Challenging the Validity of Administrative Rules](#)** (Rep. Tusler, Sen. Wimberger)
- **[SB-219/AB 218 Property Ownership by Foreign Persons-Limitations](#)** (Stafsholt, Moses) [SSA 1](#) offered by Sen. Stafsholt on August 13 to SB 218. [ASA 1](#) offered to AB 218 on August 18.

Final Permanent Rules Filed with LRB for Administrative Code Publication

- **PSC (PSC 135).** [CR 24-056](#). Gas safety.

Selected Budget Items of Interest

[250701GOPMotion.pdf](#)

Page 42, GOP Omnibus:

19. Exemption for Residential Electricity and Natural Gas. Provide an exemption from the general sales and use tax for electricity and natural gas sold for residential use during the months of May through October. Specify that this exemption would take effect on the first day of the third month beginning after publication of the bill (Oct. 1). Estimate a reduction in state sales tax collections of \$55,200,000 in 2025-26 and \$123,500,000 in 2026-27. This was originally included in the [Governor's Budget request under DOR](#) (p. 219, #1) but was removed by the co-chairs in [Omnibus Motion 4](#). **It is included in the final version of the budget.**

[Motion 90 – DNR Omnibus](#) (p.2)

9. Vacant Position Reductions. Delete 20.1 FTE positions vacant for more than 12 months, including 4.5 FED, 12.6 PR, and 3.0 SEG, and associated funding for salaries and fringe benefits, including \$365,900 FED, \$1,015,000 PR, and \$249,300 SEG. This was the **Office of Energy position and funding** initially included in

the DNR/PSC 16.505/16.515 **passive review request which the WUA-led coalition supported but was, unfortunately, removed.**

PSC Budget Requests

[Paper #642](#): Information Technology Resources

Alt 1 (Marklein/Born) Adopted, 11-3 (McGuire, Andraca, Roys) - 1. Provide \$321,400 PR in 2025-26 and \$428,600 PR in 2026-27 in one-time funding to develop a new assessment system

[Paper #643](#): Intervenor Comp.

Alt. 1 Increase intervenor compensation by \$207,500 each year, for a total of \$750,000 each year.

Alt. 2 Increase intervenor compensation by \$207,500 each year, for a total of \$750,000 each ALT 1
Change to Base PR \$415,000 Increase intervenor compensation by \$100,000 each year, for a total of \$642,500 each year.

Alt. 3 Take No Action.

Governor's Budget Approval/Veto Message: Provides \$2 million GPR in fiscal year 2025-26 to the Joint Committee on Finance supplemental appropriation to transfer to the Public Service Commission to conduct a nuclear power plant feasibility study, as specified by [2025 Wisconsin Act 15](#).

[2025-2026 Session Calendar](#)