

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 21, 2024

**Media Contact:**

Krista Ruehmer

Mueller Communications

[cecw@muellercommunications.com](mailto:cecw@muellercommunications.com)

414-390-5500



**CLEAN ECONOMY COALITION OF WISCONSIN CELEBRATES EV  
BILL SIGNAGE, OVERALL LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS**

*CECW partners key to advancing meaningful progress toward the state's  
clean economy transformation*

**MILWAUKEE** – The Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin (CECW) celebrates Governor Evers' signing of [SB 791](#) and [792](#), which enable the build-out of Wisconsin's electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure throughout the state. The Coalition applauds Governor Evers and the Wisconsin state legislature for the bipartisan effort that will reduce transportation emissions and enable more Wisconsin residents, businesses and visitors to adopt electric vehicles.

A number of CECW partners – including Clean Wisconsin, Electrification Coalition, RENEW Wisconsin and Wisconsin Conservation Voters – were key advocates for the legislation, and provided testimony and technical assistance in the process.

As the legislative session comes to a close, the passage of this legislation showcases the Coalition's role in driving meaningful progress toward a clean economy future. The legislative win underscores the Coalition's strength as it approaches its one-year anniversary on March 29.

The Coalition and its members have taken a stance on a number of legislative priorities this year, including:

**SB 222 - Development of a Pre-disaster Flood Resilience Grant Program**

CECW members Wisconsin Land+Water and Audubon Great Lakes were instrumental in the development and support of [SB 222](#), which helps protect communities against "100-year floods" – weather events that are anticipated to increase due to climate change. The bill, which passed both legislative houses and is awaiting action by Governor Evers, is the first state program of its kind and will provide grants that encourage local governments to restore and conserve wetlands

and undertake proactive strategies before flooding events occur for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and local communities.

### **AB 133/SB 134 (Now Act 42) - The Farmland Preservation Program**

After years of collaborative efforts and advocacy by key stakeholders, the Farmland Preservation Program bill, also known as Act 42, has finally been passed into law. CECW partners Wisconsin Land+Water, Clean Wisconsin and The Nature Conservancy played a crucial role in developing and refining this bill over the years. [AB 133](#) and [SB 134](#) aim to enhance and modernize the Farmland Preservation Program administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

By increasing and streamlining the tax credit system, the program incentivizes greater landowner participation, ultimately leading to more effective conservation measures being implemented across Wisconsin's agricultural landscape. This landmark legislation represents a crucial step towards preserving the state's invaluable farmlands, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and achieving the shared environmental goals of the Coalition.

### **SB 619/AB 655 - Development of a “Transition to Grass” Program**

CECW partners Clean Wisconsin, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, The Nature Conservancy and Wisconsin Land+Water were instrumental in the development of [SB 619](#) and [AB 655](#). Though the bills did not pass, they would have developed a “Transition to Grass” program at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The program would support farmers establishing managed grazing systems for livestock on their land, or implementing new management that improves conservation and financial performance of existing practices, through grant money and technical assistance.

The legislation received broad bipartisan support and received a unanimous vote in support from the Assembly Committee on Agriculture. CECW and constituent partners will push to have the program created and funded during next year's state budget process.

### **AJR6**

The Coalition came out strongly against [AJR6](#), which threatens the way Wisconsin accepts and allocates federal funds. Leaving these funds – which support everything from disaster relief to grant opportunities that are critical to the state's decarbonization goals – up to the part-time legislature will impact Wisconsin's ability to pursue timely opportunities and ensure the state receives its fair share of federal resources. Coalition partners will also work together to educate voters about this effort ahead of the August election.

Looking ahead, the Coalition's 2024 priorities include continuing to develop equity-first policy initiatives that accelerate economic development, increase Wisconsin's energy independence and work toward the goal of becoming carbon-free by 2050. Bolstered by the new electoral maps, the Coalition is encouraged that climate and sustainability issues will continue to gain broad support across the state and progress further in the next legislative session.

###

### **ABOUT THE CLEAN ECONOMY COALITION OF WISCONSIN**

The Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin is a group of climate, energy, environmental justice and conservation organizations, businesses and allies. The Coalition leverages the combined strength of its members to enhance the quality of life for all Wisconsinites by accelerating the state's transformation to a clean energy economy. We believe that an economy-wide approach to decarbonization will take our state further, faster – with better outcomes for us all. We champion equity-first policies that create jobs for Wisconsin workers, build healthier communities and protect our natural resources. By working together, we advocate for clean energy solutions that work for all of Wisconsin's diverse cultures, communities and geographies. Learn more at [www.cleaneconomywi.com](http://www.cleaneconomywi.com).