

## SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL

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Kristi Minahan (608) 266-7055  
Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Water Quality WY/3  
101 South Webster Street  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

RE: NR 102 revision – establishment of site-specific phosphorus criterion for Lac Courte Oreilles

Dear Ms. Minahan,

.... Insert a bit of personal info. – years on the lake, favorite activities, etc., then follow with something like the following .....

I/we fully support the NR 102 revision for Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) by the WDNR specifying a phosphorus limit of 10 µg/L. LCO is a rare, Outstanding Resource Water, and one of only five lakes in Wisconsin with a two-story fishery supporting both cisco and lake whitefish.

LCO has faced phosphorus pollution for decades. In 2014, LCO's largest Bay LCO's largest bay, was designated by the EPA and WDNR as an impaired water body because of high phosphorus concentrations. In 2018, all of LCO was listed as an impaired water body because of low dissolved oxygen – a result attributable to high phosphorus concentrations. Phosphorus concentrations have continued to increase – in 2021, the lake-wide average phosphorus concentration was 18.2 µg/L.

Excessive nutrient levels have led to exuberant plant growth for both native and invasive plant species. But over the last three years the invasives have spread nearly beyond control. Extensive patches of curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil now appear throughout both lakes.

The current limit of 15 µg/L phosphorus is obviously not adequately protective for the LCO lakes. Big LCO has already experienced extensive whitefish and cisco die-offs, and there is ample evidence showing that high levels of phosphorus led to oxygen depletion in the critical habitat layer. The high phosphorus and low dissolved oxygen levels will continue to result in the loss of fish habitat and lead to a wholesale change in the ecology of the LCO lakes.

An upper limit of 10 µg/L of phosphorus is essential to preserve LCO's water quality and two-story fishery. The status quo is not acceptable.

Respectfully yours,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_