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Dear Pace Council Members,

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is pleased to see points for wetland preservation and restoration incorporated into the draft criteria for ranking proposed easements for PACE grants. Wetlands are an integral part of Wisconsin's working landscape, providing flood storage, water quality improvement and wildlife habitat benefits. With 75% of the wetlands in the state under private ownership, we rely on Wisconsin's landowners to preserve and enhance the critical public benefits that wetlands provide and need to do more to acknowledge and encourage stewardship of wetland resources. The draft ranking criteria for easements for PACE grants acknowledges both the importance of wetlands in working landscapes and the role that farmers play in protecting and restoring wetland resources. Wisconsin Wetlands Association supports this provision and thanks the members of the PACE Council for their consideration of it.

Sincerely,

Erin O'Brien
Policy Director

Mission Statement:

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education and advocacy. WWA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.