



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**CORY MASON**

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY  
62ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
*REPRESENTING THE GREATER RACINE COMMUNITY*

**For Immediate Release**

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**September 14, 2011**

**Rep. Mason Blasts Gov. Walker's Efforts to Weaken Ballast Water Standards**  
*Circulating Legislative Letter to Gov. Cuomo Urging Him to 'Hold Fast' on Fighting Invasive Species*

MADISON – Representative Cory Mason (D-Racine) reacted sharply today to the news that Governor Walker and other Republican Governors are asking New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to relax its ballast water standards.

New York's ballast water discharge standard is far more stringent than other states.

"We need stronger ballast water standards, not weaker ones," said Rep. Mason, the Democratic ranking member on the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee. "If Governor Cuomo takes Governor Walker's bad advice, it will expose Wisconsin's waterways to continued threat from invasive species and put our \$7 billion fishing industry in jeopardy."

Ballast water is the main source of harmful new aquatic invaders to the Great Lakes and Wisconsin's inland waters. Addressing ballast water is essential to combating invasive species.

Rep. Mason announced today that he is circulating a letter to his legislative colleagues to send to Governor Cuomo urging him to allow New York's stringent ballast water standard to go into effect as planned in 2013.

"I hope Gov. Cuomo holds fast on its ballast water standards to prevent a devastating impact to Wisconsin's natural resources and our fishing economy," said Rep. Mason.

Rep. Mason concluded, "I plan to share this letter with legislators in the other Great Lakes states and will urge them to join Wisconsin's legislators in protecting our waterways and rejecting short-sighted and misguided appeals to weaken this critically important standard."

Rep. Mason circulated the letter to Wisconsin legislators today for co-signing and plans to send it to Governor Cuomo early next week.

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