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Special Session Legislation Maintains Strong Environmental Protections While Providing Regulatory Atmosphere Necessary to Grow Our State's Economy

Environmental activists are misleading the public with over-the-top rhetoric and misinformation to drive opposition to the Foxconn legislation. In reality, the special session proposal more than adequately protects our environment, while helping provide the regulatory certainty necessary to draw this once-in-a-lifetime project to our state. Let's set the record straight:

What the legislation does:

- Allows WEDC to establish a single "Electronics and Information Technology Manufacturing Zone" in the state for a period of 15 years
- Removes duplicative and unnecessary state approvals over federal wetlands within such a zone
- Requires that any adverse impacts to a federal or nonfederal wetland functional values within such a zone are to be mitigated on a 2:1 ratio, 66% more stringent than what is required under state law
- Expands already existing exemptions to certain permitting requirements to include construction, access, or operation of a new manufacturing facility located within such a zone

What the legislation does not do:

- Make any environmental permitting changes that apply statewide
- Modify requirements under the federal Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act
- Reduce or modify any existing air quality standard
- Exempt any business from any air quality standards
- Reduce or modify any water quality standards
- Exempt any business from any existing water quality standards

From an environmental standpoint, this is a common sense proposal. Foxconn is required to meet the exact same, very stringent air and water quality standards as every business in the state. In the event that any wetland is impacted, those impacts will be more than made up for through the creation of additional wetlands in our state.

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