

Join Congressman Gallagher to Help ***Save the Bay!***

How farmers work the land has a ripple effect on all of us in Northeast Wisconsin. In some areas, decades of conventional farming practices have stressed farmland, leaving fields cracked and impermeable, vulnerable to weather extremes and flooding. When sediment and nutrients wash from fields into our waterways, crops suffer and phosphorus feeds algal blooms, creating dead zones that kill fish and destroy ecosystems. These ecosystems are vital to agriculture, manufacturing and tourism – critical economic drivers in our communities. Yet, algae and nutrient sludge are more and more pervasive; over the years the frequency and duration of dead zones in Green Bay have increased significantly.

Congressman Mike Gallagher (WI-8) is leading the *Save the Bay* effort to reduce phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment flowing into the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. The *Save the Bay* team, comprised of representatives from agriculture, academia, industry, government and nonprofits, meets regularly to share new techniques as well as successes and challenges in implementing conservation farming and manure management strategies.

There is no quick fix. Variable weather patterns and soil composition affect results. That said, producers who have adopted conservation practices are seeing improved soil biology with a perceived savings in per-field costs. Water monitoring results are pending, but visuals comparing runoff from fields with and without cover crops show stark contrasts.

Reducing algal blooms and eliminating dead zones cannot be solved by a select few. Every farmer can implement practices, large or small, to help *Save the Bay*. While it may feel overwhelming to change long-held family farming practices, the *Save the Bay* team can serve as a resource and support network. Ag leaders, agronomists and scientists in Northeast Wisconsin are well versed on conservation practices and equipment innovations. Other *Save the Bay* partners are familiar with cost shares and current programs to reduce risks in adopting new strategies. To participate in *Save the Bay* meetings, call 920.903.9806.

For more on Save the Bay, partner projects, resources and events, visit www.gallagher.house.gov. Save the Bay is under the "Issues" tab. On Twitter follow @RepGallagher and #SavetheBayNEW.