

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

March 29, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 34** in its entirety.

This bill requires county feeding bans issued by the Department of Natural Resources be issued based on confirmed positive tests for chronic wasting disease or bovine tuberculosis in free-roaming wild animals only. Currently, the department may issue these bans based on positive tests in both free-roaming and captive animals.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to limiting the ability of the department to reduce the spread of chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis in Wisconsin. This bill disregards scientific research that suggests that chronic wasting disease can be transmitted between captive and free-roaming deer. Given that baiting and feeding are known risk factors in the transmission of chronic wasting disease, this bill would limit the department's ability to effectively respond to new positive cases in captive deer.

In 2023, chronic wasting disease was found for the first time in wild deer in Jackson, Trempealeau, Winnebago, and Polk counties. Additionally, five captive deer facilities in Dodge, Sauk, Washburn, Rock, and Oneida Counties had deer that tested positive for chronic wasting disease. We need to provide more resources to prevent the spread of this disease into new areas of the state rather than limiting an effective management tool and unnecessarily puts Wisconsin wildlife and captive deer at risk.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor