



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

April 18, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 509. This bill repeals the specific exception to the immunity provision related to litigation involving failure of local governments to repair highways.

While I know that our local governments work hard to maintain safe and high quality roads, I believe that in the few instances where individuals incur damages due to a lack of timely road repairs, citizens should not be prevented from receiving reimbursement from local governments. Additionally, the existing \$50,000 statutory cap provides a reasonable limit on these damages if they occur. I would note that Wisconsin appellate courts have only applied this statute and its predecessor in 175 cases since 1884.

All levels of government are facing budget challenges and tough funding questions, but Wisconsin drivers should be assured that roads will be kept in good repair and that local governments will be responsible for damages when they fail to make repairs on a timely basis.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE
Governor