



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 29, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 188 in its entirety.

This bill would codify in statute the current administrative rule that authorizes the Department of Safety and Professional Services to grant a building owner's request to start construction for footings and foundations prior to plan approval, and the bill adds underground and exterior plumbing as activities that may be included within such permission. This bill also states that permission to start does not provide assurance that approval for the building will be granted or relieve a licensed architect or professional engineer of responsibility for the prepared plans under review.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the bill's failure to provide the department with the resources it needs to investigate and resolve the likely increase errors in building construction due to the expansion of permissible early-start building activities, which may negatively affect public safety as well as the financial status of the building owner. This bill may require diverting resources away from other vital areas of operation. Further, the department has demonstrated success in improving plan review timelines and efficiency. The Wisconsin State Legislature should allow the department to use its established expertise and experience in plan review to determine which activities are appropriate for early permission to begin construction.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor