



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 29, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 139 in its entirety.

This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources to establish a statewide wolf population goal as a part of the Wisconsin wolf management plan.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety for multiple reasons. First, I object to requiring the department to establish a numeric population goal for wolves, as this does not consider the social, scientific, biological and legal complexities of a recovered wolf population.

I also object to limiting the department's flexibility to address regional or local issues through adaptive management strategies to achieve a healthy wolf population. Adaptive wolf management strategies have been successfully implemented in our neighboring states of Minnesota and Michigan and are successfully used in the Wisconsin deer and black bear management plans. This bill ignores the best available wildlife and social science in favor of a rigid, unscientific approach to wolf management.

Finally, modifications proposed to the state's wolf management plan should be considered as part of the established process of review and recommendation by the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Board. This process is intended to ensure that modifications reflect the expertise and agreement of scientists, the Tribal Nations of Wisconsin, hunters, farmers, environmental organizations and the general public. This bill disregards years of extensive input and discourse that went into developing the recently revised wolf management plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor