



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 20, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Senate:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 420 in its entirety.

This bill would prohibit municipalities and counties from enacting “rights of nature” ordinances, defined as “ordinances conferring legal rights to natural resources to exist, to be protected against pollution, or to maintain a healthy ecosystem.”

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Wisconsin State Legislature’s continued efforts to restrict and preempt local control across our state. I have always believed the state should be a partner in—and not an obstacle to—the important work our local partners do every day. I trust our local governments and the Tribal Nations of Wisconsin to know best how to address environmental concerns within their communities and how to protect the natural resources that are vital to local health, economies, and quality of life. With this bill, the Wisconsin State Legislature would instead take the decision away from our local partners and limit their ability to meet the unique challenges they face.

Moreover, climate change is affecting our Wisconsin way of life, from crops and products to outdoor recreation to flooding and drought. I am also vetoing this bill because I object to the Legislature’s ongoing efforts that fail to acknowledge this basic fact, or worse, make it even harder for Wisconsin to respond to and mitigate the effects of our changing climate.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor