



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 3, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 1032 in its entirety.

This bill would authorize the Natural Resources Board to sell lands owned by the state under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources that are adjacent to or within one mile of a commercial egg farm to prevent the spread of avian influenza.

In Jefferson County, where there have been multiple avian influenza outbreaks, we have heard directly from local officials who have been clear that this bill is not a viable solution. My administration has been and will continue to work with the owners of these commercial flocks, not only to respond to the outbreaks but also to work to find common ground on ways to prevent future outbreaks.

Avian influenza is a serious risk to the health and well-being of our agricultural industry and state wildlife, and we need to work together on both sides of the aisle to find ways to prevent disease outbreaks. However, this bill is not an effective solution, as there is no current research that demonstrates that the sale of lands near commercial egg farms will mitigate the risks of the spread of avian influenza in commercial flocks. Here in Wisconsin, we must continue to follow the science.

Further, as the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation noted in their testimony on this legislation: "This proposal risks setting a troubling precedent for the sale of public conservation lands in Wisconsin. Public wildlife areas are acquired and restored with sportsmen's license revenue for long-term public benefit, including hunting, wildlife conservation, habitat protection, and outdoor recreation. Divesting these lands for private commercial purposes should be an extraordinary rarity if at all, not a policy tool used to resolve adjacent land-use conflicts," and I agree.

I am therefore vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the concerning impact this may have on conservation and public lands in Wisconsin, especially sacrificing our public lands for a proposal that is not backed by evidence-based science.

Public lands provide access to places for Wisconsinites to hunt, fish, trap, and enjoy the vast and valuable natural resources our state has to offer. It is vital that these lands are maintained for future generations to enjoy just as we have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tony Evers'.

Tony Evers
Governor