



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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April 8, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 882 in its entirety.

This bill gives a town board the authority to prescribe the maximum water elevation for an artificial water body created by a dam that includes the use of a diversion pump and is located in the town if the town board has determined that a certain water elevation of that water body causes the roadbed of a highway in the town to be saturated. Additionally, the bill specifies that the owner or occupant of any lands damaged by an obstruction in a natural watercourse can only request the removal of the obstruction if the damage triggering the authority is due to ground or surface water flooding.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to limiting the ability of the Department of Natural Resources to prevent flooding throughout the state. By establishing an additional level of authority at the town board level, this bill would reduce the efficiency of the department and make it harder for the department to control and prevent flooding. In addition to these concerns, the department has warned that municipalities could restrict water levels to a level too low to reasonably allow access to state-owned wetlands for recreational activities. Finally, the bill inappropriately delegates to townships the state's responsibilities to protect the public interest in navigable waterways under the public trust doctrine contained in the Wisconsin State Constitution.

This bill, along with Assembly Bill 881, appears to be directed at addressing one township's issues by changing state law. While I am sympathetic to the town of Grantsburg's concerns about flooding, water quality, and road degradation, the town's water levels are a localized issue that would be better addressed through the existing public input processes to develop solutions. My administration will continue to engage with local officials to offer support and work toward solutions for this specific situation; however, limiting the department's authority over the state's waterways in the manner outlined in this bill could lead to flooding and accessibility issues throughout Wisconsin. Therefore, I must veto this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers  
Governor