



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

May 26, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 55. The bill provides immunity from civil liability to private campground owners, operators, and their employees or agents for property damage, personal injury and death if the damage, injury or death is the proximate result of the act or omission of a person other than the owner, operator, employee or agent.

I strongly support Wisconsin's tourism industry and recognize the importance of the businesses – including private campgrounds – that provide recreational opportunities in this state. Assembly Bill 55, however, is simply unnecessary. Granting immunity from all civil liability, including reckless and malicious conduct, is a very serious step. I am aware of no evidence suggesting that private campgrounds are the targets of unfair lawsuits, and there is simply no justification for granting blanket immunity to this special class of businesses.

Moreover, Assembly Bill 55 appears to immunize private campground owners whose negligent or reckless conduct contributes to an injury. That's not fair. Wisconsin's visitors and residents expect to stay at fun, relaxing and safe lodging facilities, whether they're hotels, resorts or campgrounds. We shouldn't be enacting laws that remove existing incentives to provide the safest, most enjoyable experience for visitors. And we shouldn't be statutorily immunizing negligent and reckless conduct for a special class of businesses.

Wisconsin is a wonderful place to vacation, and we have a responsibility to ensure that all visitors and residents have a safe and enjoyable stay.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE
Governor