



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

May 26, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 850. The bill modifies the requirements that a pier or wharf may meet to be exempt from current law.

This bill derails a bipartisan agreement reached last month between the DNR, legislators, and environmental and business groups. The compromise outlined mutually acceptable standards for permissible piers and wharves that reasonably balance the rights of waterfront property owners and public access to and enjoyment of the Wisconsin waters. The compromise legislation was based on the combined input of numerous constituents and constituent groups ranging from the Wisconsin Builders Association, Wisconsin Realtors Association, Wisconsin Association of Lakes and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and incorporated the best available science.

Like a lot of folks in Wisconsin, I have fond memories of going up north for the summer with my parents and enjoying the family pier, and I did the same with my children when they were young. Since I've been Governor, not a single pier has been removed by the DNR, and I expect that trend will continue. Even though the Legislature backed away from the agreement they negotiated, I have issued an Executive Order that requires DNR to hold up its end of the bargain. This will give property owners the certainty they need that they can enjoy the summer without any fear that DNR will take their pier away.

In short, I want to make clear that the family pier that has long been a source of enjoyment for Wisconsin families will be protected and enjoyed all summer long. While we have to continue to guard against the worst cases of abuse, like someone who might block a narrow river with an unnecessarily long pier, family piers are under no threat this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE
Governor