



JOEL KLEEFISCH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 38TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**April 10, 2013: Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting
Heritage
Assembly Bill 8**

Thank you chairman Ott and members for holding a hearing today on Assembly Bill 8, relating to urban bow hunting. This legislation will help control Wisconsin's deer population, specifically in urban areas. Prohibiting hunting in urban areas means the Department of Natural Resources has little to no ability to maintain our deer herd. As a result, areas that do not allow hunting have become places of refuge for deer in Wisconsin, resulting in expensive property damage and increased numbers of automobile accidents. In 2010, Waukesha County saw the third highest number of reported motor vehicle-deer crashes at 687; Dane County saw the highest number of crashes, totaling 854. It's no surprise that these high numbers are in counties with large urban areas, where deer are not hunted. Motor vehicle-deer crashes can result in serious injury, and certainly the possibility of death; and bow hunting as a management tool is a very effective and safe way of helping address these incidents. Once again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this legislation.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Testimony on 2013 AB 8

Before the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
April 10, 2013

Testimony by: Todd Schaller – Recreation, Enforcement and Education Section Chief

The Department is appearing for informational purposes on AB 8 which changes statutes related to establishment of local ordinances that impact hunting and also hunting restriction within 1700 feet of a hospital, sanatorium, or the grounds of a school.

Our impression is that this proposal could increase archery hunting opportunities in this state.

The proposal would potentially increase the area that people can archery hunt in and around municipalities, however individual hunters will still need to contact their local unit of government to find out if they have taken advantage of the ordinance authorities preserved in the bill. The changes made in this bill do not prohibit a municipality from prohibiting hunting on lands the municipality owns.

Current law prohibits hunting within 1,700 feet of a school zone if the department has posted the area as closed to hunting with signs. Posting seldom occurs unless requested and the property within the 1,700 feet distance is owned by the facility or the department. The common perception is that this is a safety-related law. Since 1990 Wisconsin has investigated 1063 hunting incidents of which only 17 involved archery equipment.

29.038(2)

(2) No local governmental unit may enact any ordinance or adopt any regulation, resolution or other restriction for the purpose of regulating the hunting, fishing, trapping or management of wild animals, except as follows:

(a) A local governmental unit may enact an ordinance or adopt any regulation, resolution or other restriction that is authorized under this chapter.

(b) A local governmental unit may enact an ordinance or adopt any regulation, resolution or other restriction that restricts or prohibits access for hunting, fishing or trapping in any portion of land that it owns or leases.



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To: Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
From: Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Date: April 10, 2013
Re: AB 8, Prohibiting Municipalities from Banning Bow Hunting in the Community

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities opposes AB 8, prohibiting a municipality from banning bow hunting within the community. This preemption of local authority applies even if the community has determined that banning bow hunting within a densely populated neighborhood or district is necessary to protect human health and safety. This bill is inconsistent with Wisconsin's long held tradition of granting municipalities control over matters that are primarily local in nature.

City and village elected officials are in the best position to determine whether bow hunting can be safely conducted within the community.

We strongly oppose this unnecessary interference with local control.

We urge you to vote against recommending passage of AB 8. Thanks for considering our concerns.