



TOM TIFFANY

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony on Senate Bill 508

Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry

November 28, 2017

I want to thank members of the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 508 which would allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a muzzle-loading season within the Apostle Islands beginning in November.

The Apostle Islands are a group of 22 beautiful islands in Northern Wisconsin. Whitetail deer did not historically live on the islands, but their growing numbers have caused ecological problems, especially for native plants.

Currently, there is a muzzleloader hunt during the month of October and an archery season that begins September 15 and closes September 30, reopening after the muzzle-loader season and running from November 1 to the Sunday nearest January 6.

The muzzle-loader season and archery season have not been adequate to manage the deer population on the islands. Our legislation would allow the DNR to establish an additional fall open season for hunting deer. This additional opportunity will help the National Park Service and the Wisconsin DNR to manage the deer population on the Apostle Islands.

Again, thank you members of the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry for hearing this bill and we would appreciate your support.

Tom Tiffany
Wisconsin State Senate
12th Senate District



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BETH MEYERS

Rep. Meyers Testimony for SB508 in the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry

Tuesday, November 28, 2017
10:00 AM
300 Southeast
Wisconsin State Capitol
Madison, WI

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for agreeing to hear this bill, and for giving me the opportunity to testify on its behalf.

Senate Bill (SB) 508 protects the popular and longstanding Apostle Islands muzzleloader deer hunt. This hunt was established in 1985, and has since provided a distinctive experience for participants as the only hunting season of its type in the state.

SB 508 is being introduced in order to rectify some unintended consequences of Wisconsin Act 50, which became law in 2011. Act 50 banned gun deer season prior to the Saturday before Thanksgiving, except for the youth hunt, disabled hunter deer hunt, and Learn to Hunt programs.

Unfortunately, that law effectively and unintentionally prohibited the Apostle Islands muzzleloader deer hunt, which takes place in October. The reason this deer hunt historically has occurred in October is because boat travel in the Apostles can be treacherous, any month of the year, but especially in November. This bill is narrowly focused to respond to this unique situation in a unique part of the state, and this bill is a solution to a unique problem.

The noncontroversial muzzleloader hunt provides an unparalleled hunting experience and has strong public support. This bill also has bipartisan support within the Legislature and I am happy to work with my colleagues including Senator Tiffany to provide a solution to protect this longstanding Wisconsin tradition.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this proposal and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.



74TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL P.O. BOX 8953, MADISON, WI 53708
TEL. (608) 266-7690 TOLL-FREE (888) 534-0074 FAX (608) 282-3674
E-MAIL REP.MEYERS@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV WEB HTTP://LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV/ASSEMBLY/74/MEYERS