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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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CWD Ruling Reversed

This last fall the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) submitted an emergency rule that stated due to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) deer farmers would have to build an extra fence around their property. In addition, hunters could not transport deer carcasses across county lines if they were in a CWD affected area.

As a hunter myself, I find these actions to be incredibly over reaching. The Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR) also came to that conclusion. There are many individuals across the state that hunt in a different county than where they live. This emergency rule would put Wisconsin's long standing family traditions and hunting practices in danger.

That is why on Tuesday April 9th the State Assembly and Senate each passed a bill to refer back to committee to reverse this decision. Assembly Bill 6 and Senate Bill 27 say that the "DNR may not prohibit the transportation of a deer carcass out of the county in which it was harvested. Also under the bill, DNR must require that all parts of a deer carcass be removed from the field, except for entrails."

The DNR first found positive test results for CWD back in 2002. While the emergency rule concerning building an additional fence around deer farms did get approved back in October of 2018, the second part of the proposed emergency rule on denying the movement of deer carcasses was turned down in JCRAR.

It is important to keep the biggest sport in Wisconsin thriving for future generations. For example, did you know that last year there were over 545,000 hunters that had purchased licenses? These hunters respect deer herds and are some of the biggest conservationists in the state. The passage of Assembly Bill 6 and Senate Bill 27 will help to protect one of Wisconsin's longest traditions. I am committed to preserve and protect the heritage of hunting in our great state.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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