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State of Wisconsin  
Office of the Governor

March 31, 2022

The Honorable, the Senate:

I am vetoing **Senate Bill 612** in its entirety.

This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources to annually stock at least 100,000 brook trout in Lake Michigan.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to implementing arbitrary stock quotas without considering, much less incorporating, evidence and science-based practices and processes. The Department of Natural Resources has a history of collaborating with stakeholders in order to make stocking decisions that *are* science-based, and which incorporate biological, social, and economic factors to evaluate stocking fish while ensuring habitat protection, among other considerations. This bill would not allow the department to adjust stocking levels based on angler demand, natural fish reproduction rates, or economic factors. Furthermore, this bill would require the department to shift resources towards stocking brook trout, potentially reducing the propagation of other fish species. This could lead to challenges from sport fishers as certain species of other fish would see limited stocking efforts as resources are shifted toward the arbitrary statutory requirement to stock brook trout.

Respectfully submitted,  
*TONY EVERS*  
Governor