



TERRY MOULTON



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

23RD SENATE DISTRICT

From: Senator Terry Moulton

To: Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 68
Relating to: rules that prohibit feeding deer in certain counties.

Date: March 9, 2017

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about Senate Bill 68, a bill that would allow the deer feeding ban in a county where CWD was found to be lifted after three years if no other deer are found with CWD and after two years in neighboring counties.

Chronic Wasting Disease was first discovered in Wisconsin in 2002. At the time, a ban on baiting and feeding in counties where CWD was found made sense. It was important to keep the deer population and ourselves safe from the spread of a disease that we did not know much about. However, if a county does not have any deer that test positive for CWD after a reasonable period of time, the ban should be lifted.

The number of cases for CWD is not evenly distributed throughout Wisconsin. In the Northern Forest Zone mapped out by the DNR, 585 deer were tested in 2016 but zero tested positive for CWD. However, six of the counties in the zone have bans in place. In the Central Farmland Zone, which covers my district and much of the middle section of Wisconsin, only one deer out of the sample of 1,177 tested positive.

Current law requires that a ban be enacted in the county the deer was found in and the adjacent counties. Under this bill, the ban could be lifted if no other deer are found with CWD after three years in the county the deer was found in and after two years in the neighboring counties.

I ask you to please consider the passage of Senate Bill 68. Thank you again for allowing me to testify today.

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ADAM JARCHOW

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on SB 68 – Relating to rules that prohibit feeding deer in certain counties

Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry

Thursday, March 9, 2017 – 9:00 am

400 SE – State Capitol

Today, 43 counties in Wisconsin are under a permanent “feeding ban”. That means that under current law, citizens in those 43 counties are unable to feed deer – ever. In all these counties, this is a result of finding a deer with Chronic Wasting Disease – CWD – in the respective county or an adjacent county.

For example, in 2011, a deer was found with CWD in Shell Lake, in Washburn County. That triggered a feeding ban in Washburn, Barron, Polk, and Barron Counties. This is because when a deer is found with CWD, the ban goes into effect for the county in which the deer was found AND in the surrounding counties. Since this specific ban was put in place in 2011, not one deer has been found to have CWD in those four counties.

What this bill would do is end a “forever ban” and allow counties to put a time limit on feeding bans. The ban would sunset in the county where a CWD deer is found after three years and in the adjoining counties after two years. If another CWD deer is found, the clock resets and the ban is put back in place for three and two years, respectively.

The main concern that I have heard over the past few years since working on this issue is that people simply do not agree with the practice of baiting and feeding. While that may be a perfectly legitimate and worthwhile debate, I do not believe that this is the time and place to have that discussion. This bill is about granting counties the authority to end a ban that is currently irreversible.

I hope you will join me in supporting this legislation to allow citizens across our state to once again feed deer in their own backyards.