

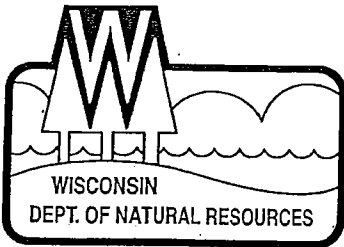
CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: January 25, 2006
TO: Deer Rule 2006 Stakeholders Committee
FROM: Keith Warnke *Keith*
SUBJECT: Department response to Natural Resources Board request

The enclosed letter was sent to Representative Scott Gunderson and Senator Neal Kedzie on January 24, 2006. The letter was sent at the request of the Natural Resources Board to clearly state the Department's position on baiting and feeding and present the public's response to the attached advisory question authored by board member Herb Benke. As you know, the advisory question was presented to the public for input and response at the 10 public hearings held statewide in October, 2005.

Thank you for your continued efforts and interest in supporting Wisconsin's deer management program.



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY Access via relay - 711

January 24, 2006

Honorable Scott Gunderson, Chair
Assemble Natural Resources Committee
Room 7 West
State Capitol

Honorable Neal Kedzie, Chair
Senate Natural Resources & Transportation Committee
Room 313 South
State Capitol

SUBJECT: Recent Natural Resources Board Guidance on Deer Baiting and Feeding

Dear Gentlemen:

Yesterday, your committees reviewed the 2006 deer season rule (Clearinghouse Rule 05-086). This rule is strongly supported by a majority of the state's deer hunting interest groups including the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the Wisconsin Bowhunters' Association. I'm writing to request your help to get companion baiting and feeding legislation enacted in order to improve the herd management capability included in CR 05-086.

When the 2006 deer rule was taken out for public hearings around the state, the Natural Resources Board also sought public input on a proposal (enclosed) to modify deer baiting and feeding regulations in those counties where these activities are not prohibited. The Board proposal would prohibit baiting and feeding of deer statewide 10 days prior to the 9-day deer gun season, and during the 9-day deer gun season. The intent of the proposal was to promote deer movement during shooting hours and more even distribution of deer available to hunters. The Board has heard from many hunters that feel the success of the 2006 Deer Rule Proposal hinges on the introduction and passage of legislation that would enact the proposed statewide prohibition on baiting and feeding. This proposal did receive support during our 10 public hearings held last December (Table 1.), hence we are seeking this legislative change.

Table 1. Response to Natural Resources Board Resolution on Banning Baiting and Feeding Prior to and During the Deer Gun Seasons.

Hearing Location	Support	Opposition	Neutral
Green Bay	25	6	1
Eau Claire	17	9	1
Waukesha	9	12	2
La Crosse	7	3	1
Fond du Lac	18	8	0
Stevens Point	12	3	2
Madison	7	6	3
Ashland	10	44	1
Rhineland	15	9	1
Spooner	14	2	2
Written Comments	15	16	0
Total	149	118	14

I understand the temptation to not reopen the legislative discussion over baiting and feeding, but I believe we must. For the record, the Department's position on baiting and feeding remains unchanged. We believe baiting and feeding of deer should be banned. Our reasons include: deer and elk herd health, enforcement and hunter

