



April 2, 2021

RE: Testimony: Senate Bill 166: relating to disposal of deer carcasses

Dear Chair Cowles & Honorable Members of the Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Solid Waste Association of North America- Badger Chapter and the Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association, please accept this testimony on Senate Bill 166. While we appreciate and support the intent of this bill, to mitigate the negative impacts of chronic waste disease (CWD) on deer populations, we cannot support the bill in its present form.

In particular, we cannot support the proposed section 289.56(1), which prohibits a landfill owner/operator from refusing to accept deer carcasses that are double-bagged for disposal. Certainly, double-bagging is a sound method of containing residual flesh, bodily fluids, organs and carcasses when placing these items in a trash bin. However, once the waste is placed in a landfill, a 120,000 pound trash compactor, with 4-inch steel teeth, will rip to shreds the double-bag and its contents. The double-bagging will not contain the contents when compacted to the minimum requisite 1,200 pounds per cubic yard. The prions will not be locked inside the double-bag.

Wisconsin Administrative Code NR514.07(9) requires landfills to have an organic stability plan. One method of achieving organic stability is to recirculate leachate (liquids that leach out of waste in a landfill). Based on a WDNR letter of November 24, 2014, to the city of Janesville Landfill with a subject: Deer Disposal, Leachate Recirculation and Organic Stability”, landfills may not recirculate leachate above a deer disposal area or within 150 feet of a deer disposal area. While the letter states that recirculation may occur before placing deer carcasses in a landfill or outside of the 150 foot setback, compelling landfills to accept deer carcasses has the potential to make landfills out of compliance with their NR514.07(9) legal obligations.

As well, all landfills are required to have leachate disposal options, which are almost exclusively municipal wastewater treatment facilities. Those facilities are not required to accept landfill leachate. The growing concerns related to per- and polyfluorinated compounds have wastewater facilities already turning away leachate. Some wastewater facilities also exclude leachate from landfills that accept deer carcasses. Requiring landfills to accept deer carcasses adds to an already growing issue of landfill operators finding appropriate and affordable leachate disposal options.

As the legislature works to find solutions for controlling CWD and where landfill disposal is seen as an option, we respectfully ask that you seek the technical expertise of the solid waste industry. We are at the ready to assist in doing what we do every day...protect human health and the environment.

With respect,

Solid Waste Association of North America- Badger Chapter has more than 200 members in Wisconsin, providing information, training programs, and networking opportunities to solid waste professionals and sharing ideas and solutions to better manage municipal waste.

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Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association works with all counties to promote effective and environmentally sound waste management systems and resource recovery efforts.

Contact: Chair Gerry Neuser, (Manitowoc County Public Works Director), 920-683-4307 GerryNeuser@co.manitowoc.wi.us