

Transportation Bill includes regulating quarries.....2 articles



**In Issue #272 of the Frac Sand Sentinel, I shared a copy of part of the Transportation Bill that also spoke to regulating quarries in WI. It is either identical to or very similar to the Bill introduced in 2017 that was ultimately vetoed by Governor Walker. I also shared the entire Transportation Bill which included that portion.**

**I promised additional information for further clarification. A couple of articles may enlighten you a bit.**

**The first comes from WPR and Rich Kremer.**

**[https://www.wpr.org/joint-finance-committee-transportation-budget-blocks-local-control-quarries?utm\\_source=WPR+News+&+Program+News+letters&utm\\_campaign=ddacb252b6-WPR+Morning+News&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term](https://www.wpr.org/joint-finance-committee-transportation-budget-blocks-local-control-quarries?utm_source=WPR+News+&+Program+News+letters&utm_campaign=ddacb252b6-WPR+Morning+News&utm_medium=email&utm_term)**

=0\_8cef131bb2-ddacb252b6-299386349

**In 2017, a very similar quarry statement was in the transportation bill. It was vetoed by Gov. Walker. Take a look:**

**The article in the La Crosse Tribune from the last time around lays out the issues and concerns very well:**

[https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/wisconsin-budget-bill-strips-local-government-control-of-quarries/article\\_b69bedfe-95e3-5d62-a184-5d506d14d522.html](https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/wisconsin-budget-bill-strips-local-government-control-of-quarries/article_b69bedfe-95e3-5d62-a184-5d506d14d522.html)

**Relevant excerpts of that article:**

**Zeglin calls the amendment “the thin end of the wedge” and fears it could easily be expanded to include frac sand mines.**

**According to records from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, more than 12 percent of the state’s operating frac sand mines are in Trempealeau County, which has 17 permitted sites covering more**

than 3,900 acres.

**“All it would take is a one-word change ... and it would eliminate all local control,” Zeglin said.**

**State Sen. Kathleen Vinehout, an Alma Democrat who has previously introduced legislation to bolster regulation of the industry, worries Gov. Scott Walker could use his line-item veto to do just that.**

**“It’s drafted in a way that if you remove 15 words in the definition of a quarry it could apply to sand mines,” Vinehout said. “This would dramatically expand what presumably the Legislature intended.”**

**Walker spokesman Tom Evenson said Tuesday he would “refrain from commenting on potential vetoes/non-vetoes until the legislative process is concluded and the governor issues his veto message.”**

**In fact, the amendment included frac sand mining until two days before the Joint Finance Committee approved it by a 12-4 party line vote Tuesday, according to the Wisconsin Counties Association, which lobbied to narrow the prohibitions to aggregate mining.**

**“This bill is significantly more palatable now that frac sand is out of this,” said Kyle Christianson, director of government affairs for the counties association.**

**Christianson said WCA supports uniform statewide air and water quality regulations but believes counties should retain the ability to regulate other aspects of operation. He said his group would strongly oppose any use of a line-item veto on the language, which was agreed to by WCA and the Wisconsin Towns Association.**

**The League of Wisconsin Municipalities, which represents cities and villages, was not included in negotiations and opposes the effort to limit local control.**

**“We don’t like it,” said associate director Curt Witynski. “We’d prefer it to be taken out of the budget.”**

**While quarries are typically associated with rural areas, Witynski said there are many within city and village limits, including the Milwaukee County city of Franklin, which surrounds a one-square-mile limestone pit. There’s a quarry in the village of West Salem and one adjacent to the village of Holmen.**

**“As residential areas grow over time they often will bump up against the boundaries of quarries,” he said.**

**Because they have historically been regulated at the local level, the state does not maintain a comprehensive list of quarry sites.**

**Ironically, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, the business lobbying group that pushed to exempt frac sand mining, opposes the amendment on the grounds it favors one industry over another.**

**“The fix that the Legislature put in there we think creates more harm than good,” said Lucas Vebber, general counsel for WMC. “Our objective is to ensure solutions work for everyone.”**

**Patricia Popple 715-723-6398 [sunnyday5@charter.net](mailto:sunnyday5@charter.net)**

***Welcome to the Frac Sand Sentinel, a newsletter highlighting resource links, news media accounts, blog posts, correspondence, observations and opinions gathered regarding local actions on, and impacts of, the developing frac sand mining and processing industries.***

***The content of this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The editor of the Frac Sand Sentinel does not accept any responsibility or liability for the use or misuse of the content of this newsletter or reliance by any persons on the newsletters contents.***

**CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: [CCC-WIS.COM](http://CCC-WIS.COM) and for additional information, [click here](#) for panoramic aerial views of frac sand mines, processing plants, and trans-load facilities. [FracTracker.org](http://FracTracker.org) is also an excellent source of information**