



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

December 18, 2019

Michigan House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

Today I am returning Enrolled House Bill 4687 to you without my approval. The bills would have removed the Natural Resources Commission's authority to regulate deer baiting and feeding, and instead would have allowed any person to engage in baiting and feeding during the open season for deer or elk, ignoring the will of Michigan voters, who overwhelmingly decided to give authority for wildlife management to the Natural Resources Commission.

I am fully committed to protecting wildlife, promoting public health, and maintaining a strong agricultural sector in Michigan. House Bill 4687 would have jeopardized all three of these goals because it would increase the risk of spreading disease among animals both in the wild and in the beef and dairy industries. As a result of my veto today, the commission's deer baiting ban will remain in place, curbing the spread of diseases like Chronic Wasting Disease.

Proposal G of 1996 was a referendum on Public Act 377 of 1996, which granted the Natural Resources Commission exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game, and to use principles of sound scientific management in making decisions regarding the taking of game. It passed overwhelmingly, with more than 68% of Michigan voters in support. The commission's ban on baiting and feeding is based on strong scientific evidence, which demonstrates that baiting and feeding disrupt normal wildlife movement patterns, causing deer and elk to congregate and thereby increasing the likelihood of disease transmission. The authority to regulate baiting and feeding should therefore remain with the Natural Resources Commission, the body charged by the legislature and the voters with overseeing the method and manner of taking game species in Michigan.

In light of these considerations, I am vetoing House Bill 4687.

Respectfully,

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor

FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE

ON 12/19/19 AT 9:24 AM.