



Burnett County Highway Department

Jeremy Burton

Burnett County Highway Commissioner

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Dear Residents Burnett County

This letter is to inform you of the Wisconsin state statutes that prohibit plowing, pushing, or depositing snow onto or across public roadways. We have observed multiple instances where snow is placed on the roadway after county plow trucks have finished their routes for the day. This creates hazardous conditions for motorists and additional challenges for maintenance crews.

Wisconsin law is clear on this matter:

- Wis. Stat. § 346.94(5) prohibits *"placing or causing to be placed upon a highway any foreign substance which is or may be injurious to any vehicle or part thereof."* Snow or ice placed from private driveways or parking areas onto a public roadway is considered a *foreign substance* under this statute.
- Wis. Stat. § 86.022, along with related maintenance statutes under Chapter 86, also applies. Depositing snow in road ditches or across a highway can be treated as an illegal obstruction or as material unlawfully placed within the roadway or right-of-way.

Because of these statutes, counties, towns, and municipalities throughout Wisconsin instruct residents and property owners that pushing, blowing, or plowing snow from private property onto or across public roads is unlawful. Violations may result in fines or other enforcement actions.

What this means in practice:

- Pushing or blowing snow from a driveway, private lot, or private road onto the public roadway, shoulder, or across the travel lane is a violation of state law.
- Local governments may enforce these statutes as well as their own ordinances that prohibit such actions.
- Even in areas without a specific local ordinance, the state statutes remain fully enforceable.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our roads safe for the traveling public. Proper handling of snow on private property helps prevent hazardous conditions and ensures efficient maintenance operations throughout the winter season.

If you have questions regarding these requirements, please contact Jeremy Burton Commissioner Burnett County Highway Department

Sincerely,

Jeremy Burton

Burnett County Highway Commissioner