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Doyle defends smoking ban

Tavern league promises fight over proposal

By JOE PETRIE - GM Today Staff

February 21, 2009

WAUKESHA - Gov. Jim Doyle on Friday denied he promised Wisconsin Tavern League members he'd not include a smoking ban in his proposed 2009-11 biennial budget.

During a phone interview, Doyle said he never made such a promise and that it's appropriate to include such a provision in the budget instead of voting on it as a stand-alone proposal because it's part of his efforts to curb tobacco use.

"It's very appropriate it's in there," he said. "(W)e've made some important progress and I don't want to lose that momentum."

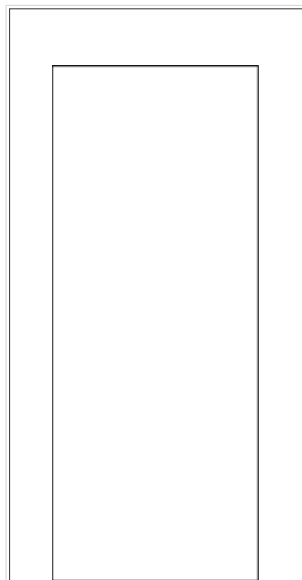


Associated Press

Gov. Jim Doyle

Local tavern owners have expressed outrage with Doyle's inclusion of the provision in the budget because they say he promised some of the league's members that it would be taken up this summer by itself instead of being hidden in the budget.

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Owners have stated they want it taken up by itself because such a matter should pass on its merits alone and not be buried in the budget.

Pete Madlam, executive director of the Wisconsin Tavern League, said Doyle didn't make the promise to the organization as a whole, but a letter was sent to a member by Doyle's administration that essentially said the matter would be taken up separately.

[For full story, go to the electronic version of The Freeman. Click here to access the electronic version.](#)

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