



2011 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 112

February 21, 2012 - Introduced by Representatives LOUDENBECK, BROOKS, ENDSLEY, FIELDS, KERKMAN, PRIDEMORE, SPANBAUER, STRACHOTA and THIESFELDT, cosponsored by Senator TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the Port of Milwaukee as Grantee for Foreign-Trade Zone No.
2 41 and supporting the inclusion of nine additional Wisconsin counties in the
3 zone.

4 Whereas, under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, foreign-trade
5 zones were created to facilitate international trade and increase the global
6 competitiveness of U.S. based companies; and

7 Whereas, a foreign-trade zone is a designated location in the United States
8 within which duty-free treatment is accorded to items that are processed in
9 foreign-trade zones and then re-exported, and duty payment is deferred on items
10 until they are brought out of the foreign-trade zone for sale in the U.S. market; and

11 Whereas, prior to any merchandise being admitted under foreign-trade zone
12 procedures, approval is granted by the Foreign-Trade Zones Board within the U.S.
13 Department of Commerce, and activation of this status is granted by local U.S.
14 Customs and Border Protection officials; and

1 Whereas, on September 29, 1978, the U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones Board granted
2 approval to the Foreign-Trade Zone of Greater Milwaukee, Inc., to establish
3 Foreign-Trade Zone No. 41 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

4 Whereas, On August 31, 2011, the Port of Milwaukee, as Grantee for
5 Foreign-Trade Zone No. 41, was approved for the expedited program known as
6 Alternative Site Framework for the counties of Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha;
7 and

8 Whereas, on February 9, 2012, the Port of Milwaukee Board of Harbor
9 Commissioners passed a resolution to apply to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board to
10 expand its service area to include the nine counties of Walworth, Rock, Jefferson,
11 Waukesha, Dodge, Washington, Ozaukee, Fond du Lac, and Sheboygan, all
12 satisfying the adjacency requirement that they lie within 60 miles or 90-minutes
13 driving-time of the port of entry; and

14 Whereas, a variety of activities can be conducted in a foreign-trade zone,
15 including manufacturing, assembling, packaging, distributing, sorting, testing,
16 labeling, repairing, combining with foreign or domestic content, and processing; and

17 Whereas, the public benefits of a foreign-trade zone include facilitating and
18 expediting international trade; providing special customs procedures as a public
19 service to help firms conduct international trade-related operations in competition
20 with foreign plants; encouraging and facilitating exports; attracting offshore activity
21 and encouraging retention of domestic activity; assisting state and local economic
22 development efforts; and creating employment opportunities; now, therefore, be it

23 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
24 Wisconsin legislature support the application to expand the service area of the Port
25 of Milwaukee's Foreign-Trade Zone No. 41 to include nine additional Wisconsin

1 counties and commend the Port of Milwaukee as Grantee for Foreign-Trade Zone No.
2 41 for its contribution to increased economic development opportunities in
3 Wisconsin, and for its commitment to increasing Wisconsin's ability to compete in the
4 global marketplace.

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(END)