

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

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➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

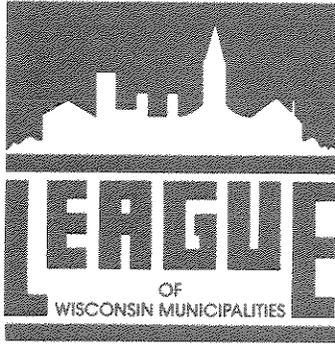
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➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

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To: Members of the Joint Finance Committee
From: Dan Thompson, Executive Director *Dan*
Date: April 16, 1997
Re: 1997-99 Biennial Budget Bill

On behalf of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, I'd like to comment on three programs in the 1997-99 state budget bill. They are: shared revenue, transportation and brownfields.

Shared Revenue. The budget bill holds the shared revenue program, including the expenditure restraint and small communities improvement programs, at 1996 funding levels. This does not represent cost to continue for state support of municipal services. Without adequate funding of the shared revenue program, local officials will be forced to cut essential services or raise property taxes. We are concerned about losing the historic partnership between state and local government to provide basic municipal services.

Transportation. The program where the Committee has the most discretion to increase spending to local governments is the transportation fund. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities has joined with the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin Urban Transit Association, Dane County and the New Transportation Alliance to propose a long term plan to increase state support for maintaining and repairing local roads.

The proposal would:

- Continue to spend nearly all of the federal revenue on state and interstate highways;
- Increase, by 2% each year, the local share of user fees from the current 42% until it reaches 65%; and
- Distribute the aid in the same proportion among the categories.

Even while general transportation aids are increasing, the costs of maintaining local roads are increasing at a faster rate. Municipal tax rates are rising, in part, to make up this difference.

Brownfields. The provision allowing municipalities to create a brownfield district, using techniques similar to tax incremental financing, will be very helpful to municipalities struggling to clean up contaminated sites.

The Governor has also provided a grant program for the redevelopment of brownfields and associated environmental remediation activities. The League's policy committees have gone on record supporting the program with the following changes:

- The funding come from general purpose funds, not the recycling fund.
- The amount of money be increased to address the scope of contaminated sites that exist in the state.
- The grants for cleanup should be based on environmental criteria, not on the size of the community.

Conclusion. Local officials depend on state legislators to provide cost to continue funding in support of existing services. This budget doesn't do that. There is room for additional support for local government, however, in the transportation budget. We hope legislators will assist local officials in improving local roads without raising local taxes. Thank you for your consideration.

BUDGET HEARING TESTIMONY

4-16-97

My name is Chantel Buckeridge. I work with the Visiting Nurse Service as a Home Health Aide. I've been doing CNA work for six years. I'm here today to give you a feeling for what I do as a home health aide and the difference I make in my patients lives.

One of my patients is a 42 year old man who is paraplegic. He is able work but he can not dress himself, give himself a bath or check for pressure sores. When I visit him I do catheter care, bathe him and prepare him with a snack and a drink. I fix his bed and put a chux (a protective pad) under him. Because this patient has home health care he is able to work and to remain independent and in his own home. He tells me that if he wasn't able to have me come to his home, he doesn't know how he'd survive.

I have another patient who is bed bound because of spinal cord disease. He has heart problems and diabetes. He has a history of very bad bed sores. Since Visiting Nurse Service has begun providing care , his skin has been basically intact except fro a few superficial bed sores. His only other care giver is his wife who has severe back and hip problems. Each visit I bathe him, provide skin care to prevent wounds, I do range of motion exercises with him to keep his arms and legs from spasming. I also do light chore services to help his wife since their laundry is in the basement. This man is alert and oriented. He is a kind and caring man who is able to stay in his home because of Visiting Nurse Service. If he did not have a home health aide he would not be able to remain in his own home.

So many of my patients tell me that if they didn't have people like us, they would be forced into a nursing home or into some other type of institution.

DATE: April 15, 1997

FILE REF:

TO: George E. Meyer

FROM: Peter Muñoz - ODA

SUBJECT: State Council on Affirmative Action

The Wisconsin Evaluation Survey Report recommends the elimination of the Council on Affirmative Action. The justification for this recommendation is based on the premise that the Council's activities are "duplicative and redundant". However, the elimination of the Council will have a significant adverse impact on the future AA/EEO programs in the Agency.

Counter to the report's conclusion, the work of the Council is neither duplicative nor redundant. Rather, it performs the crucial function of providing citizen involvement in the process of setting the State's AA/EEO/Diversity mission, and strategy for implementation of its related programs. The report cites the presence of AA Officers and advisory committees internal to agencies as performing duplicate function as the Council. However, this argument is erroneous because it ignores the fact that AA officers and advisory committees are employees of the State and, as such, concentrate in matters internal to Agencies. As our agency moves toward ecosystem based management, the importance of the role of the Council in providing an avenue for citizen input becomes self-evident.

The Affirmative Action Council has played a key role in maintaining Wisconsin's progressive leadership among state governments in the area of Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity. Wisconsin's Fair Employment Law was one of the first, and remains one of the best state laws in the country in safe guarding AA/EEO. It is through these laws that our Agency is able to implement its exemplary AA/EEO programs. Given current national movement against affirmative action, DNR needs the Council firmly in place in order to ward off any attempts in Wisconsin to destroy its programs. Indeed, the effort to eliminate the Council itself may be considered a key part of carrying out this movement in our State.

DNR has identified AA/EEO/Diversity as an important Secretary issue. Therefore, DNR should strongly recommend to the Legislature that the Council be kept firmly in place as a key component in attaining it's goals.

Peter Muñoz

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Thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice our concerns about the pending budget. My name is Sam Edwards. I'm Regional Director Vice President of Sales for S. Abraham & Sons, a Milwaukee-based distributor of tobacco products, grocery products, and health and beauty products, among other things. Our company employs 200 people in Wisconsin.

We are against any increase in the excise tax on cigarettes for several reasons:

- 1) Retailers are hurt because raising the excise tax, by any amount, encourages cross-border traffic. When consumers cross the border to purchase cigarettes, they buy other products as well. The state of Wisconsin should not be encouraging Wisconsin consumers to go to other states to purchase these products. When it happens, not only do retailers get squeezed, but our business is hurt also. The American Economics Group estimates revenue loss to retailers because of even a \$.25 increase could result in 3,200 lost jobs.
- 2) More than any other group, retailers and distributors like ourselves are concerned about the problem of youth access to cigarettes. But the biggest myth about raising the excise tax on cigarettes is that it will reduce youth smoking. Studies by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control show that raising the tax has little effect on youth smoking. In fact, in some cases, youth smoking rises when tax is increased. That actually happened in Illinois, Nebraska, and Hawaii. Raising the price of cigarettes only increases the "forbidden nature" of cigarettes, which as we all know because we were young at one time, is appealing to youth.
- 3) There's no doubt the state will benefit initially from a tax increase. But the cigarette tax is not a reliable source of revenue. Adult smokers simply will find alternative low-tax or no-tax sources for cigarettes. When that happens, the state will be back for another increase. Adult smokers already pay \$200 million annually in cigarette taxes. It's time to examine other ways to fix the state's problems.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN, INC.**

122 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2500 608-256-0827 FAX 608-256-2853

**STATEMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE RELATING TO
BROWNFIELDS
Madison, Wisconsin
April 16, 1997**

We are pleased that the Governor's proposal on brownfields draws on the experience gathered by the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Administration and Department of Commerce involved in the past year with a dozen pilot brownfield projects. The pilots have allowed these state agencies to explore the legal liability, DNR oversight vs. self-implementing nature of clean-up rules and other policy and funding issues related to contaminated land remediation.

It is crucial that we invest within urban areas, instead of overlooking existing infrastructure investments in order to develop greenfields where that same infrastructure will have to be duplicated. Land recycling is excellent land use and helps to create a level playing field for brownfields and greenfields. This initiative will help to overcome the disincentives for urban development created by proliferation of state supported incentives for suburban and rural development of infrastructure.

There are several aspects of this initiative that need to be addressed.

Community Involvement

Local community input into the land redevelopment is essential to ensure that a particular business or industry will have a positive effect on the community. We should not be encouraging developments that may have a long term negative effect on the local economy and/or health. Developments that take crucial dollars away from local business or further pollute the air, water or soil should not be allowed.

Protection of Public Health and Safety

Protection of public health and the environment must remain the top priority throughout the implementation of the Land Redevelopment Initiative. It is important that the DNR retain the ability to fully enforce NR 700 rules. The League of Women Voters participated in developing NR 700 as the minimum standards and rules necessary for the protection of human population and the environment. The DNR should not now be forced to negotiate or otherwise be restricted in any manner in enforcing NR 700 rules.

Provisions need to be made to pro-actively assess contaminated sites to determine the full extent

- more -

of the contamination. Currently the public is unknowingly at risk from sites that have never been assessed for the level and type of contamination they contain. The public has a right to know what contaminants are on a site and what the potential impacts may be.

Funding Sources

The brownfield initiative should stand on its own financially for it to remain viable for the long term. Diminishing programs such as the Recycling Fund and the Stewardship Fund is reneging on previous long-term commitments made by the state to businesses, municipalities and citizens. The goals of the Land Recycling Initiative are not similar to those of the Recycling Fund or the Stewardship Fund goals. The citizens of Wisconsin produced the Recycling Fund and the Stewardship Fund and trust the long-term commitments that were made to continue them. Raiding these funds is deceiving the public and is bad public policy.

We must also go slowly and invest wisely in projects that would not have otherwise happened; choosing those sites first which will have immediate and beneficial health impact. This land development initiative will succeed if we provide business and industry development that fits the site, its level of contamination and the needs of the surrounding community without sacrificing the financial viability of other critical programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support and concerns on the Land Redevelopment Initiative.



Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Joint Committee on Finance
Written Testimony Regarding "Truth In Sentencing" Initiative
1997-99 Biennial Budget**

Submitted in Writing on April 16, 1997
By Amy E. Judy, Policy Development Specialist

Since I am unavailable to testify in person today, I wished to communicate to Members of the Joint Committee on Finance our support for the "Truth In Sentencing" provisions within the 1997-99 Biennial Budget. The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) is a statewide coalition of rape crisis centers and other organization and individuals working to end sexual violence throughout Wisconsin. An issue of great importance to the victims of sexual violence served by the 32 community-based rape crisis centers in Wisconsin is offender accountability.

The "truth in sentencing" provisions within the biennial budget bill restructures sentencing practices so that every day an offender is sentenced to imprisonment is a day served in prison. As advocates for victims/survivors of sexual assault, the rape crisis centers often encounter frustration and disillusionment among victims following conviction of the offender because what is communicated to victims at sentencing does not reflect truly the time an offender actually will serve in prison. "Truth in sentencing" is more honest and clean in its approach to sentencing.

While this initiative may raise questions about its practical effects on sentencing as a whole, victims/survivors of sexual assault and other crimes will recognize and applaud the common sense approach used under this initiative. "Truth In Sentencing" will project a reality of justice that sometimes gets lost for victims at sentencing. Often at the end of a trial, a victim of a sexual assault crime hears at sentencing that the offender is sentenced to twenty years, for example. The victim becomes disillusioned with the criminal justice process and the idea of "justice" when the sentence served is significantly less in many cases than the imposed sentence.

WCASA supports the general approach embraced through restructuring sentencing practices to reflect a cleaner process: every day the offender is sentenced is every day served. We urge your consideration of and support for the "Truth In Sentencing" provisions.

Erma Wenter
Juneau WI
Dodge County

Joint Finance Committee
April 15, 1997

Dear Members

I am the mother of a young man with mental retardation. He lives home with my husband and myself. He is 47 yrs old. He needs Community option (COP) services, to continue to live at home. We are aging parents with an aging child living in our home. Besides my son there are 120 people with retardation in Dodge County on a waiting list waiting for services. The Community option (COP) program saves money for the County and State when our family member can remain living at home. More funding monies should be allocated to this program for it also helps to keep many elderly out of the nursing homes. There by saving money. Please support the Community option (COP) program. to keep people in the community.

Thank you

Erma Wenter

1529 Oak Grove Juneau WI 52029

My name is Dave Nelson and I am president of Wisconsin Smokers' Rights. I appreciate the opportunity to address the members of the state Joint Committee on Finance about the proposal in the budget to raise the cigarette tax by 5 cents per pack.

Our group represents [number] of adult smokers in our state who are fed up with measures clearly aimed at punishing us for the legal choice we've made to smoke. We firmly believe that our government should not use taxes, restrictive ordinances, or any other actions as weapons to control our lives.

The governor's budget includes a proposal to increase the cigarette tax by five cents, bringing the tax to 49 cents per pack. Some have argued that smokers should be grateful that only a five cent tax is being proposed and not the 56 cents per pack increase over two years that was proposed last year.

On the contrary, we are against this tax for several reasons:

- Cigarettes are one of the highest taxed products in this country, and Wisconsin smokers already pay enough taxes for their cigarettes. Legislators have already indicated that this 5-cent increase is just the beginning. Smokers, they said, can expect to be hit with incremental tax increases over several years.
- There is no need for a tax increase. After all, Wisconsin is not currently facing a budget crisis. If our state treasury needs more money, legislators need to come up with fair and effective ways to generate it — like cutting unnecessary spending.
- It is unfair to single out one group of citizens to pay for services that all of us benefit from. If our state needs money for particular programs or to balance the budget, every citizen in the state should have to contribute to the effort — not just smokers.
- Sales taxes increases invariably mean declining sales for retailers. And tobacco sales account for a large percentage of most retail stores' profits. This tax increase would amount to nothing more than a drain on legitimate retail profits. And after all, cigarettes are a legal product for adult smokers to purchase and retailers to sell.
- Tobacco products are an easy target for tax increases. Not everyone smokes and those that don't are eager to vote yes for a tax that won't apply to them.

DAVID NELSON

759 MONROE ST

OSHKOSH WI 54901

WISCONSIN SMOKERS RIGHTS COALITION

- A tax increase on adult smokers is not the way to stop kids from smoking. Last year, the Special Committee on Minors and Tobacco advocated the 56-cent-per-pack increase as a way to discourage minors from buying cigarettes. However, studies have clearly shown that raising cigarette taxes does not lead to an overall reduction in smoking. When cigarette taxes are raised people don't stop smoking, they just change their buying habits. They purchase low-cost brands, cross state borders for lower taxed products, or turn to the underground market. If we are going to address underage smoking, we must focus on education, enforcement, and parental involvement. The problem won't be solved by making retailers or their adult customers the scapegoats.

I urge the members of the committee, on behalf of Wisconsin Smokers' Rights, to strike the 5-cent-per-pack increase from the 1997 budget proposal. Thank you.

**SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF THE RURAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
(RED) AS PART OF DAIRY 2020, DEPT. OF
COMMERCE BUDGET**

TESTIMONY TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

William T. Rockwell, Wisconsin Technical College System
& Dairy 2020 Board Member

April 16, 1997

TESTIMONY TO JOINT FINANCE ON DAIRY 2020 BUDGET
4/16/97

- THANK-YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY. I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND A BRIEF PERIOD TESTIFYING IN FAVOR OF THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE'S PROPOSED INCREASE TO THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.
- MY NAME IS BILL ROCKWELL, I AM AN EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT FOR THE WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM, I WORK WITH AND REPRESENT STATEWIDE AGRICULTURE/AGRIBUSINESS PROGRAMS IN OUR TECHNICAL COLLEGES AFFECTING OVER 4000 STUDENTS
- I AM THE WTCS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE DAIRY 2020 COUNCIL

WHY DAIRY 2020 HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPORTANT

- HAS BROUGHT TOGETHER PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS, EDUCATORS, AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES IN A COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT WITH A UNIFIED PURPOSE: TO ENHANCE AND REVITALIZE WISCONSIN'S ECONOMIC POSITION IN THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

- AGRICULTURE IS AN EXTREMELY DIVERSE INDUSTRY, WITH MANY CONSTITUENT GROUPS REPRESENTING VARIOUS FACETS OF THE INDUSTRY. DAIRY 2020 HAS BROUGHT THESE GROUPS TOGETHER AND FOCUSED ON A COMMON PURPOSE, AND I THINK HAS ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESS IN ADDRESSING REAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN THE RURAL SECTOR
- FOR MAYBE THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, AGRICULTURE IS BEING TREATED AS AN EQUAL IN PUBLIC INVESTMENT VIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DOLLARS. PAST PRACTICE WAS THAT "INDUSTRY" WAS ANYTHING NON-AGRICULTURAL AND THAT WAS THE FOCUS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AGRICULTURE IT WAS ASSUMED WOULD FEND FOR ITSELF.

IMPORTANCE OF THE RED PROGRAM

THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL TO TREAT AGRICULTURE AS THE IMPORTANT 5.3 BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY THAT IT IS. THE ADDITION OF THE THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS TESTIMONY TO THAT COMMITMENT.

I SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE'S REQUEST FOR EXPANSION OF THE RED PROGRAM FROM \$478, 500 TO \$750,000. I CANNOT OVERSTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING BUSINESS START-UP INCENTIVES FOR NEW FARM OPERATORS AND THOSE THAT WANT TO EXPAND.

- THE AVERAGE AGE OF OUR FARM OPERATORS IS APPROACHING 50 AND CONTINUES TO INCREASE
- THE POOL OF YOUNG PEOPLE DESIRING FARM OWNERSHIP IS THERE, BUT MANY EXPERIENCE CONSIDERABLE BARRIERS TO BUSINESS START-UP, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE "BORN INTO" A FARM OWNERSHIP POSITION.
- THE TREMENDOUS CAPTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STARTING AND SUCCEEDING IN FARMING CREATES A GREAT NEED FOR BUSINESS START—UP INCENTIVES.
- ACCORDING TO A MAY 1995 STUDY OF DAIRY FARMERS DONE BY THE UW CENTER FOR DAIRY PROFITABILITY,

FINANCIAL/BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING WAS RATED # ONE WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY THINK ARE THE MAJOR NEEDS FARMERS WILL HAVE TO HELP ENSURE THEY ARE COMPETITIVE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

THE PROBLEM OF CAREER TRANSITIONS IN AGRICULTURE

A GROUP OF AG INDUSTRY AND AGENCY INDIVIDUALS HAS BEEN WORKING FOR SOME TIME ON THE PROBLEM OF FARM OWNERSHIP ENTRY & EXIT. DAIRY 2020 ALSO IDENTIFIED THIS AS A PROBLEM THAT NEEDS TO BE WORKED ON.

THIS GROUP, **THE AG CAREER AND FARM TRANSITION GROUP** CONVENED AT THE DEPT. OF AG, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, HAS OVER THE PAST YEAR, HAS DISCOVERED THAT FARM ENTRY EXIT IS ONLY PART OF THE PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE CHALLENGE. WHAT THE GROUP DISCOVERED WAS A NEED TO IDENTIFY A MORE HIGHLY DEFINED CAREER PATH IN PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE, PART OF WHICH COULD LEAD TO FARM BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.

AS PART OF THAT GROUP, I DEVELOPED THE CONCEPT OF THIS CAREER PATHWAY IN A **MODEL** OF AGRICULTURAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT. (I HAVE COPIES OF THAT PAPER FOR THOSE THAT MAY BE INTERESTED)

WHY IS A CAREER PATHWAY IN AGRICULTURE IMPORTANT?

BY DEFINING A CLEAR CAREER PATHWAY, POTENTIAL ENTRANTS INTO PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE AND THOSE WHO ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE WILL HAVE A MORE HIGHLY DEFINED "ROAD MAP" FOR ENTERING AND PROGRESSING THROUGH THEIR CHOSEN OPTION, INCLUDING FARM BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.

A KEY PART OF CREATING THIS CAREER OPPORTUNITY IS TO PROVIDE THE MEANS (INCLUDING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES) FOR AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURS TO ENTER AND THRIVE IN AN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS.

THE RED PROGRAM ALLOWS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY BY
PROVIDING FUNDS FOR 1. PRE-BUSINESS PLANNING 2.
FEASIBILITY STUDIES 3. BUSINESS START-UP MICRO-LOANS
YOUR SUPPORT OF THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR THE
RED PROGRAM WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD FOSTERING A
NEW COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ONE OF OUR STATE'S
LARGEST INDUSTRIES.

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

The Case for a Career Path in Production Agriculture

Through the centuries, American agriculture developed as an industry around the concept of the "Spirit of the Pioneer". The noble notion of the "self-made man" carving a living from the land to provide for a family is deeply embedded in the American psyche. From the early years of colonial life to the modern ages of technological farming, there are certain elements of this rural/agricultural ethic which survive to this day.

To be sure, the American pioneering spirit pervades many other aspects of our lives in the U.S. For the sake of this discussion, we will distinguish production agriculture from others by calling this the *Agrarian Pioneering Spirit*. This "Agrarian Pioneering Spirit" is still evident today in farm families as they pursue the dream of pulling riches from the soil and maintaining their chosen way of life.

Epitomizing this notion was Thomas Jefferson who wrote: "Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous the most independent, the most virtuous..." Historian August Miller wrote: Agrarianism was the most significant force in his (Jefferson's) entire philosophy. As a farmer, Jefferson was anxious to preserve a pattern of civilization which was essentially agricultural...His vision of America was that of a large country in which every citizen would reside on his own farm and live off the products of his own land.

Unquestionably, the independent entrepreneurial farmer has been the leading force behind the building of arguably the best and most efficient agricultural production industry in the world. This allowed for the development of a vast agribusiness industry which when coupled with the production sector is still the largest contributor to the nations GNP.

This "Agrarian Pioneering Spirit" to which we in America silently adhere has both great strengths and weaknesses. As previously stated, it has been a major driving force in pushing agriculture forward in this country. On the other hand, it in many ways creates and sustains a *cultural bias* against systemic structures or common ways of doing things. This is especially a problem when farmers are faced with more pervasive challenges which cross local, regional, national and even international boundaries. These by nature are more sociological and "community" oriented issues which require collective thinking and collaborative action. Examples of these are: insuring affordable health insurance for farmers, changing milk marketing order inequity, developing new marketable products, finding profitable market niches and developing farm entry/exit options.

There is no argument that there is no substitute for a local farmer acting in good conscience with common sense, intelligence and "enlightened self-interest" to improve and expand the farm's competitive/economic position. At the same time, there are these pervasive issues which are beyond the reach of individuals to solve. Our

purpose here is not to expound in great detail on these, but to point to some ways in which we might improve upon the great foundation of strength we already have as we look to the future.

One of these “*beyond the reach of the individual farmer to solve*” issues is career pathways and transitions in agriculture. If production agriculture is to survive and thrive into the 21st century, among other things it must develop a clearer, more comprehensive system of career transition. In this paper, I will explain why career transition is one of the most significant issues farmers will deal with for the rest of this century and into the next.

So what is wrong then? Isn't a system that works this well worth leaving alone? If it isn't broke, why fix it? Why argue with success? The answer to these questions is not so much fixing history but looking after the needs of the future. In this next section, we will explore the reasons why this is such an important issue and why now.

Career Pathways and Transitions

Career development in production agriculture has rarely surfaced as a great priority among the myriads of issues that must be faced to farm. At the extreme, it could be argued that farming as a career was not a career “choice” at all...it was something passed on, from one generation to the next. As Paul Bickford, Dairy Farmer from Ridgeway, Wisconsin, puts it, “Farming has always sort of been the “default occupation.” Default in the sense that it often was not purposefully chosen and prepared for and more often than not...inherited.

The Problem

Some of the results of this “default” occupational choice with no clear career pathway are:

- An aging farm population (avg 55 yrs. in Wis.)
- High number of retirement-age farmers with few or no options to transfer ownership to younger farmers
- A “drying up” stream of new/younger beginning farmers entering the profession
- A critical shortage of skilled production agriculture labor

These and many other disturbing trends in agriculture indicate an emerging problem beginning to reach crisis proportions.

If we look deeper, we discover many driving forces at work in society today which point to a need to develop a coherent career transition system. The most significant of these are:

- ◆ Overcoming negative images cast upon farming as a career choice-the perception of “no opportunity”

- ◆ Farm production margins of profit continue to get narrower
- ◆ The increasing cost and sheer volume of capital needed to farm
- ◆ American society in general is becoming further removed from the land
- ◆ A relatively stable economy with low unemployment create more attractive career opportunities in the non-farm sector
- ◆ Equity-building options for aspiring farmers are limited, especially for those individuals who were not “born into” a farm estate arrangement

This leads us to the inevitable question: If there are barriers both real and imagined in farm career transition, where do we start to overcome this? My belief is the answer lies in working on putting in place the “fractured pieces” of the agricultural career transition puzzle. A good beginning is developing a **Career Path Model**.

Career Paths

A career path can be defined as a *coherent sequence of educational, occupational and life experiences which contribute to one's ability to move from one occupational level to another.*

A production agriculture career path does exist. However, transitions and options within this career path are often undefined or unavailable. The farm business ownership option for instance (at least for Wisconsin), is still highly dependent on traditional family relationships; ie father passes the farm to son or daughter, brothers go into partnership, etc. Models for entrance into farming or farm estate transfer exist, but seem to be not universally known and alternative models tend to be “brokered” by individuals themselves.

The ultimate goal and main benefit for developing a production agriculture career model which would define career pathways is summed up:

Ultimate Goal: Defining and clarifying in the clearest terms possible the route one could take and alternate routes available to enter, progress, change career focus and exit production agriculture.

Main Benefit: The model would provide an invaluable “road map” for prospective and current agricultural workers to evaluate career options and grow in those chosen options.

THE MODEL

The model represents a career continuum. A way to think about this career pathway is that it is a **personal career roadmap**. The map will be uniquely different for each individual, but will clearly lay out the optional destinations and routes to get there.

For simplicity, this model is divided into two unique sections or career life-cycle choices. Within these are several important stages or options. These are:

Pathway to Business Ownership

1. **Entry-level occupational:** This is the most common agricultural career entrance point. In this phase a person is gaining basic education and/or experience in production agriculture techniques. Training occurs in such settings as agricultural education classrooms and laboratories in high school or in on-the-job experience.
2. **Technical/Experiential:** This phase continues the skill and professional development of the individual in agricultural careers. Common opportunities are educational programs in technical colleges, universities, private schools and/or more structured training through worksite experiences such as apprenticeships, mentorships, etc.
3. **Equity-building:** In this phase of career development a person has decided to move from pure employment to some type of ownership entry. The type of ownership varies, but equity-building dictates accumulating ownership share in agricultural assets. New skills need to be acquired in finances, record-keeping and general management.
4. **Farm Business Cycle:** Entering the Farm Business Cycle implies a person has now taken on some ownership interest of the farming enterprise. It is also assumed that because of this, increased management responsibility follows. This professional management position will now require skills in farm business arrangements & estate transfer, financial record-keeping, farm business analysis and employee management, etc.

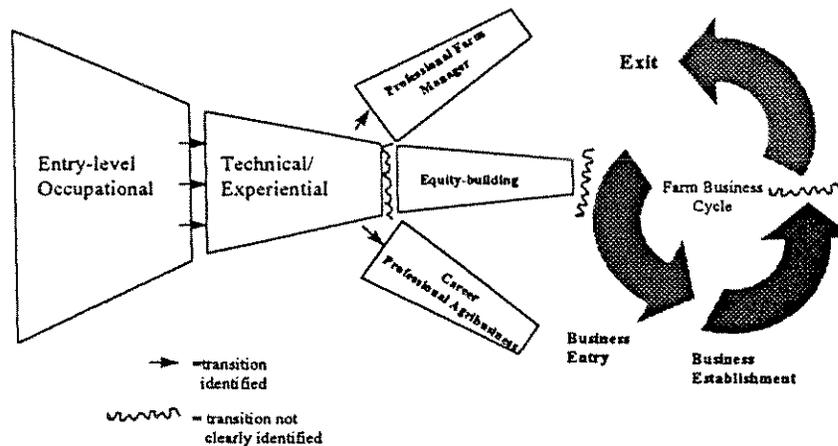
Pathway to (non-ownership) Professional Career

Within the career model, two other career routes are available. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible career options. This is intended to aggregate many job titles into two discreet categories. Non-ownership paths are available for those who want to pursue professional production ag and agribusiness careers.

- ◆ **Professional Farm Manager:** Manage production enterprises for a farm owner
- ◆ **Professional Agribusiness:** Work as a professional employee of agricultural service and supply industry or other agriculturally affiliated agency

The agricultural career model is depicted below in graphical form:

Agriculture Career Pathways



One needs to be reminded that this is only a theoretical model. This career pathway is only virtual-the pieces may be there or forms of a system seem in place, but it is not a working reality.

Transitions

To understand how to make the career model a reality, one must study the transitions. Transitions in a career pathway are important because these are the places in which our societal support systems must be in place. Here is an example:

A recent high school graduate has just completed 4 years of agricultural education and wants to pursue agriculture as a career. An important transition support system for this student is **career guidance**, probably at the high school and technical college or university. Accurate and complete information about career options at this point is critical to this person's continued pursuit of a career goal.

Other transition areas between phases of career opportunity are not so clear. The model depicts these as "not clearly defined" transitions. These are especially problematic in the equity-building and ownership phases of the agricultural career path. Lack of a defined transition or support system inhibits new entrants into farm business and hampers those who wish to transition out of business.

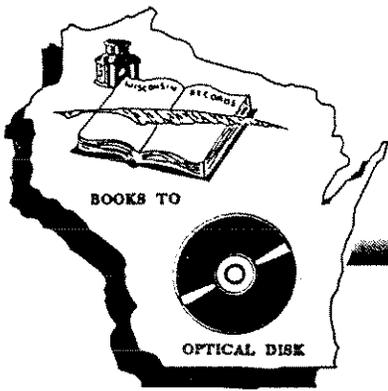
What Can be Done?

The good news is the problems are solvable. Obviously there are many challenges to building a coherent, seamless career transition system. Educational providers, agricultural government and service agencies and

others need to work together to fill in the gaps and put support systems in place to make this career pathway a reality. With a system such as this in place and clearly understood by all, agriculture will take one more important step toward creating a new professional agriculturist. It will also go a long way in promoting agriculture as a viable career choice for a wider group of potential entrants into the field.

Bill Rockwell, Wisconsin Technical College System Board

3/26/97



WISCONSIN REGISTER OF DEEDS

Association

April 16, 1997

To: Members of Joint Finance Committee, Wisconsin State Legislature

From: Jane Licht, Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association President
(608)267-8814 FAX: (608)267-3110

Re: Provision to delete the Wisconsin Land Information Board

One of your colleagues shared Department of Administration Secretary Mark Bugher's letter to legislators with me. Mr. Bugher was presenting rational for elimination the existing Wisconsin Land Information Board, explaining that the proposed Wisconsin Land Council could easily take over the duties of the WLIB.

Our association disagrees with Mr. Bugher's position on this matter. The proposal is clearly a way for the Department of Administration to take over a very popular and successful locally-based program. We believe that a council of mainly state agency heads whose primary charge is to recommend ways of solving land use issues does not make a grass roots program for improving land information systems at the local level.

Over the last five years that the Wisconsin Land Information Board has awarded grants to counties and municipalities, learning curves and land information modernization have made dramatic progress in all areas of the state. I know from the experience of working in the trenches, being the one to actually implement a new indexing and imaging system, and being involved in the planning of our geographic information system, there is no way for state government bureaucrats to wave a magic wand and make it happen all across Wisconsin. There is no substitute for hard work and determination at the local level--the place where most land information is gathered, stored, and available for public access.

The Wisconsin Land Information Program--which is the WLIP plus the technical staff of three people, provides guidance, expertise, and distributes grant money to make land records modernization happen in counties and municipalities who are ready to tackle the challenge. The WLIP already has made great strides in developing a land information clearing house; having a Land Council take over would only slow down progress. The WLIP already effectively encourages communication and cooperation among governmental units involved with land information.

"FEW THINGS MUST LAST AS LONG AS COUNTY RECORDS"

From a land information point of view, land use planning is only one of many attributes of a multi-purpose land information system. Trying to have the tail wag the dog has never been a good idea, especially when the tail belongs to a different animal. The process of modernizing land information supports many government and private sector interests. But it is neutral when it comes to land use policy issues. Getting tangled in thorny, controversial land use policy issues can only be detrimental to land information system modernization--a discipline which is embraced by folks who may otherwise be antagonists, such as land developers and land use planners, Realtors and environmentalists.

The WLIP is not funded by state income tax dollars. It is totally funded by user fees. A surcharge was placed on the first page of every document recorded in the office of the register of deeds. The title insurance company officers, attorneys, Wisconsin Realtors, surveyors, utility representatives and others who have to take the heat for the increased fees did not complain about it because they understood the potential benefits of improved public access to better land information.

I suspect that there are officials within the DOA who covet the independence of the WLIP and the program revenue. I suspect that there are officials within the DOA of the old mindset that local governments can't do it and so big brother state government should step in and do it. But these state agency folks should remember that the state did not do so well with the KIDS state-wide computer program (it's still not working properly), and the first state UCC computer program was a total disaster. I also suspect that because there is no longer enough grant money to satisfy all the counties and municipalities ready to implement modern land information systems and thus, complaints are being voiced, that the DOA views the program as being vulnerable.

If the DOA is committed to the Land Use Council, then I think it is appropriate for Mr. Bugher to promote it. But not at the expense of the Wisconsin Land Information Program. This is the position our Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association took at the Spring Seminar in March of this year. Thanks for your time and consideration of this matter.

**Wisconsin
Retirement
Consortium**

Joint Finance Committee Testimony

1997-99 Biennial Budget (SB77/AB100):
State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB)

by

Ken Opin, President, Wisconsin Retirement Consortium
Wednesday, April 16, 1977

Introduction

My name is Ken Opin. I am the President of the Wisconsin Retirement Consortium. We have seventeen organizations as members, representing management and labor, participants and annuitants. Collectively we represent virtually all of the participants and a significant percentage of the annuitants in the Wisconsin Retirement System.

SWIB

The Wisconsin Retirement Consortium supports the State of Wisconsin Investment Board's request for an increase in the budget to \$5.4 million, all from program revenue, to upgrade their information systems, up from the Governor's recommendation of \$3.5 million. SWIB has already shared with you their most recent cost information, and we urge you to pay close attention to it.

Please remember that all the funds to run SWIB are program revenue. To us, SWIB's program revenue is our members' pension money. We want it spent wisely. Excess spending means either increased contributions from participants and employers or lower pensions to annuitants. We watch this money closely.

We are convinced that SWIB's information system proposal is well thought out, a good use of our members' pension money, and a sound investment that we all hope will lead to lower costs, better information and higher pensions in the future.

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Joint Finance Committee Testimony

1997-99 Biennial Budget (SB77/AB100)

by

Mary Ann Braithwaite, President, Wisconsin Federation of Teachers

Wednesday, April 16, 1977

Introduction

My name is Mary Ann Braithwaite. I am the President of the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers. We represent 15,000 professional public employees in Wisconsin—K-12, Technical College and UW faculty and staff, UW teaching and graduate assistants, and the vast majority of professional state employees—from crime lab analysts to researchers to the DNR staffers who protect our clean air and water.

Because other WFT members and staff are registered to testify on UW and several state employee issues, I will focus my testimony on the Technical College System; Choice and Vouchers in the K-12 system; and three state agencies—WERC, DER, and the State of Wisconsin Investment Board—which cut across the lines and affect all our members.

WTCS

W2

For adults who are inexperienced in working on a regular basis, direct work experience is a key to achieving self sufficiency and we agree it is good public policy to emphasize work for individuals receiving public assistance. However,

- Employment and income are directly related to educational attainment
- The work world is becoming increasingly skill oriented
- Significant numbers of welfare recipients do not have the education required for skilled jobs
- Businesses are operating in a highly competitive environment and are reluctant to hire untested workers
- Minimum or near minimum wage jobs with poor benefits frequently are insufficient to lift families out of poverty

In order for W-2 to succeed, an educational component must be added. Hours spent in class plus two hours of study time for every hour spent in class should be allowed to meet the work requirement of W-2.

- **General aids**

WFT supports increasing the WTCS budget 4.5% annually; rather than the 1% increase offered by the Governor. General WTCS aid has remained frozen for the last three fiscal years, resulting in increased pressure on the property tax.

Youth options

WFT supports the youth option proposal, but we want to remind you of the importance of maintaining cost neutrality for the high schools, technical colleges and the students and their families. The object must be the best interest of the student—gaming the system for institutional financial advantage should never become a factor.

K-12

Public School choice

WFT strongly supports the establishment of a statewide public school choice program, as Governor Thompson proposes, on a space available basis. We recognize that only a small percentage of Wisconsin's students will ever take advantage of public school choice, but for a few it will be wonderful opportunity. As designed, it should be a program where everyone wins, no one loses. Clearly safeguards need to be put in place to avoid discrimination of any type, to not have choice become a tool for sports star recruiting, and other problems. But if one district has a program in Japanese, has space available, why shouldn't interested students in the area, but in other public school districts, be able to avail themselves of this opportunity?

Charter Schools

WFT opposes all the modifications of Wisconsin's charter school program included in the budget bill. We support the current language regarding establishment of charter schools that are instrumentalities of existing school districts. These programs have barely had time to get up and running, and some unexpected consequences have already occurred.

Let's give the current experiment enough time to figure out what works and what doesn't, rather than assume that any change from the status quo will automatically be an improvement.

Milwaukee private/parochial school voucher program

WFT opposes all aspects of the religious school voucher program, and we hope that the U. S. Supreme Court declares this issue unconstitutional once and for all, and we can get the focus back on making public education better.

State government operations

WERC and DER

WFT opposes the proposed staff reductions at the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission and the Department of Employment Relations. They have insufficient staff currently and this proposal would only make things worse. This year, for example, DER will be representing the State of Wisconsin in bargaining its first contract with the Public Defenders, a WFT affiliate. Perhaps there might be a short term advantage to us in having DER understaffed, but in the type of collective bargaining we hope takes place, we need DER to be fully informed of the issues and certainly we want them to be able to crunch numbers ASAP. What possible advantage could there be to eliminating an MIS position? Does DER plan to contract out collective bargaining?

SWIB

WFT supports the State of Wisconsin Investment Board's request for an increase in the budget to \$5.4 million, all from program revenue, to upgrade their information systems, up from the Governor's recommendation of \$3.5 million. SWIB has already shared with you their most recent cost information, and we urge you to pay close attention to it.

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● ● ●

MATT SPEECH TO Joint Finance Committee - MADISON, April 16, 1997

My name is Matt Ward. I am 18 years old. I live in Cottage Grove, I am a senior at Monona Grove High School.

My parents found out I was autistic when I was 18 months old. I said my first word and learned my name when I was 2. My favorite toy when I was 2 was a jar lid. I loved to spin them. I used to try to spin everything. I could even spin kleenex boxes.

I had a vocabulary of 30 words when I was 3. Half of those words were the names of numbers. I started using short sentences when I was 4. I asked my first question when I was 5.

In grade school I spent about half of my time in an ED-LD classroom and half the time with regular students. I usually had an Aid with me, especially in the regular classes. These Aids were very important to me. They helped me pay attention in class. Sometimes they took me out of class when I got upset. I don't think I would have been able to learn as well without my Aids.

I went to almost all regular classes in junior high and usually had an Aid with me. When things got rough, I went to a resource room.

All through high school I have gone to regular classes by myself without an Aid. I do have a resource room, but I don't use it very much. I do all my own homework.

I have trouble communicating, but I am very smart. My non-verbal IQ tested at 144 four years ago. When I took a test of visual/spatial skills when I was in junior high, I scored higher than the top of the high school scale.

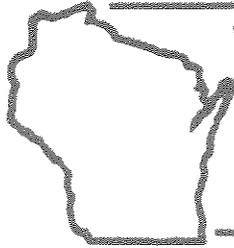
All through junior and senior high I have gotten mostly A's and B's on my report cards. I have a 3.23 overall grade point average for high school.

I am on the Math Team at Monona Grove High. Last year I took the American High School Mathematics Exam and got the 7th highest score in the state. I have been invited to join an honors calculus class at the UW this fall. It's a little easier for me to communicate with others about math because I understand it so well and like it so much. I don't look so different in a group where everyone has a pocket protector and a giant calculator in their back pocket.

I have problems with communication. My language is quite good, but conversation is stressful because it takes a lot of effort for me. Talking is easier if I can read the words. I have done a lot of work with speech and language teachers. This has helped me.

I still need some help to learn about the world, but I've come a long way. My Mom says the last thing she ever expected was to see me on the "Speaker's Circuit", but here I am.

Being autistic is part of who I am. Being able to talk to you like this makes me feel like I finally have a voice of my own. Remember me when you're making decisions about special education funding. Thank you for listening to me.



WISCONSIN FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION

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April 16, 1997

RE: Agrichemical Management Fund, DATCP Budget
By: Betsy Ahner, Executive Director, WFCA

The Wisconsin Fertilizer and Chemical Association has worked closely with the DATCP to develop the revisions included in the state budget bill and fully supports all but one of them as proposed.

The governor's version of the budget includes one provision that we think needs to be changed. As the **industry** share of the money accumulates in the fund and is held by the department until reimbursements are approved, it earns interest. In the past this interest stayed in the fund, but the governor's budget removes it and transfers it to the general fund.

This is money coming from the farmers of Wisconsin and it should stay in the program to benefit them. Removing this money will mean that the fees this bill reduces, will have to be reinstated sooner and at a higher rate than they would if the estimated \$428,000 in interest for the biennium, is retained to fund the program.

One other point of interest. Several of you have asked if the savings realized by our members as a result of the two year moratorium on the fee surcharges will reach the farmers. I have discussed this with my board of directors and members and they assure me that they intend to pass the savings on to their customers. They have always included the 1.3% charge on sales as a line item on the bills that their customers pay, so there is an exact accounting of the money collected.

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Award

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6 Legislative Report

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Agrichemical Clean-Up Program

The Governor's biennial budget contains a number of revisions to the ACCP that have been recommended by a DATCP committee which the WFCA sat on. In brief they include:

- [a] Money collected from Agrichemical Clean-Up Program surcharges will be segregated from the Agrichemical Management Program money and will be used only for clean-up activities.
- [b] The Governor recommends a two-year exemption from ACCP surcharge fees to spend down the high balance in the fund (estimated at \$8.6 million).
- [c] DATCP will be authorized to re-establish the surcharge fee in two years at an estimated 50% of current levels. A mechanism will be established to keep the fund balance from reaching a higher level than needed to operate the program.
- [d] Lapse \$2.7 million general purpose revenue from the continuing balance and reduce expenditure authority by \$600,000 over the biennium.
- [e] Eliminate deductible requirements for separate spill events and provide a lifetime deduction per site of \$3,000 for individuals and \$7,500 for licensed facilities and large businesses.
- [f] Eliminate reimbursement limits for separate spill events and replace them with a lifetime reimbursement cap of \$400,000 per site.
- [g] Establish an 80% state cost share for eligible expenses above the deductible, but below the lifetime cap of \$400,000.
- [h] Lower the threshold at which DATCP approval of work plans is required from \$20,000 to \$7,500.
- [i] Allow time spent by a responsible party on implementing a clean-up (not including management oversight) to be eligible for reimbursement.
- [j] Clarify the penalty provisions in the program to include any violation of the applicable statute or code, not only orders issued by the Department.

Mrs. Myrtle Macdonald
17 Hollywood R.
Madison, Wi 53713

4/11/79
608-224-4395

Wisconsin Smokers Rights

P. O. ox 7483

Madison, Wi ~~XXXXXX~~ 53707-7483

Re: April 16-th Hearing

I am very sorry that because of a bad back, I will not be able to attend the hearing.

I am 79 years old (1-18-1918) and have been a steady smoker for 63 years and am still alive. Even my dogs have all lived to be 16 years old. (this is their full life span for M. Sshnauzers. I have worked all my life (25 years with General Telephone of Wi and never missed a day in 25 years) I have been a widow dor 29 years. lived alone live in mobile Court for 24 years and still do all my own work inside and outside.

I have a big gripe about taxing cigarettes more. For many of us old people this is our one pleasure. Also I am paying 44¢ a package and now they want \$1.00 more. When ~~they~~ they get everyone to quit what will they tax to make up for the cigarett tax loss and what will the tobacco farmers do for a living.

I have one other gripe. When I buy a carton of Cigaretts at the store why am i also taxed the .055 tax on them. Isn't it illegal to tax a tax. I have located cash register receipts which proves this point. I am already paying \$4.00 tax plus the .055 (\$1.00) which means I am already paying \$5.40 tax now. I am very concerned about paying tax on tax. This used to be illegal.

You have my permission to bring this up if it is useable. I am truly sorry that I can't be there. I will keep the sales slip from the Super Saver where I buy my cigarettes and they are at your disposal.

I hope you will be able to bring this up at the meeting. I was buying cigarettes when the were \$5¢ a package or 2 packages for 25¢

I have lived most of my 79 years in wisconsin and most of them in Madison. I am an old 1935 graduate of the Old Madison Central Hight.

The best of luck at the meeting

P.S. I might add, I have never missed one election not even a primary

Respectfully submitted

Myrtle T. Macdonald
Mrs. Myrtle T. Macdonald

EE/personal file