

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

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt193

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **



SCHREIBER FOODS, INC.

P.O. BOX 19010 • GREEN BAY, WI 54307-9010

NANCY K. ARMBRUST
Vice President, Education and Community Relations

April 17, 1997

Legislative Joint Finance Committee
Public Hearing
St. Norbert College
De Pere, WI

I want to take this opportunity to ask for your support of the UW-Green Bay Partnership for Learning Initiative and the resulting request for funding for the upcoming '97-'99 State Biennial Budget.

As a founding member of the Partnership for Learning Taskforce, our company, Schreiber Foods, Inc., is excited and actively working with other community partners to achieve a new vision for teacher education and development that focuses on improved student learning.

In what we think is unique not only to Wisconsin, but perhaps the nation, the University of Wisconsin -Green Bay has initiated a partnership with 37 school districts within CESA #7, the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners In Education program, area business leaders, teachers, parents and community members.

In our rapidly changing workplace, where remaining globally competitive requires ALL of our employees to have the ability to learn, unlearn and relearn new skills and knowledge, just doing the same thing better isn't enough anymore. We also need to do things differently to be successful. The Partnership for Learning Initiative provides a "different way" to improve student learning through focusing on the skills and knowledge that educators need to be successful...and incorporating accountability and assessment to insure that improved student learning occurs.

We are optimistic that we will be successful, and respectfully ask for your consideration and support of the UW-Green Bay request for funding.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Armbrust
Vice President, Education & Community Relations

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4-17-87

MY NAME IS JAMES HEBBET.
I AM THE PRESIDENT OF AN
ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING FIRM
IN OUTAGAMIE CO.

I AM A MEMBER OF THE "WISCONSIN
LAND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION".

I AM IN FAVOR OF KEEPING THE
LAND INFORMATION PROGRAM AS IT
EXISTS. THIS PROGRAM HAS ALLOWED
OUTAGAMIE AND OTHER COUNTIES TO FORM
BASE MAP STRUCTURE & ADD SOVEREIGNS
SUCH AS FLOOD PLAIN, WETLANDS, ADDRESSABLE
UTILITIES AND MANY MORE. THIS INFORMATION
IS FORMATED FOR PERSONAL COMPUTERS
AND IS READILY AVAILABLE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES.

THE LAND INFORMATION PROGRAM IS
FUNDED BY A USER FEE, THAT IS AN
INCREASE IN THE REGISTER OF DEEDS
FEES, AND NOT A TAX BURDEN.

OUR ASSOCIATION FEARS THAT A MERGERING
W/TA THE GOVERNOR'S LAND USE COUNCIL
AS PROPOSED, WILL TAKE MONIES AWAY
FROM LAND INFORMATION & USE IT FOR
LAND USE ISSUES.

James A Hebbet

ORAL TESTIMONY
before
THE WISCONSIN JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 17, 1997
of

S. Verna Fowler, Ph.D., President
College of the Menominee Nation
P.O. Box 1179, Keshena, WI 54135
Phone: (715) 799-4921 FAX: (715) 799-1308
E-Mail: vfowler@menominee.com

Introduction

For the record I submitted written testimony which provides detail and authoritative sources for the statements I make in my oral testimony. The written testimony is scholarly; the oral testimony is from the heart.

I am Verna Fowler from the Menominee Reservation; a member of the Menominee Tribe. My Menominee mother and Stockbridge father taught me the value of education and that I have a responsibility for others.

Testimony Request

I ask today that you amend the Governor's 1997-99 proposed budget and appropriate funds for the state's two tribal colleges for the education of their non-Indian students. My request is \$3,000 dollars per non-Indian full time equivalent student, which for both colleges totals \$564,000. One is 4 year old College of the Menominee Nation (CMN) in Keshena and the other is Hayward's Lac Courte Orielles Community College (LCOCC) which has served state's Indian and non-Indian citizens for nearly 20 years.

Reasons for Request

These Land Grant institutions possess a reputation among other colleges as offering high quality education. Both work with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the accrediting body for Midwest colleges to meet the same standards as the state's public institutions.

I am the President and founder of the Menominee College. I have this honor because of 30 years experience in education as a teacher and administrator in Wisconsin schools. I hold a Ph.D. in Educational Administration with a cognate in higher education from the University of North Dakota.

Having never started a college before, I made some mistakes. The biggest was underestimating the people's desire for education. We began four years ago offering four classes to 50 students. This semester, 90 courses were offered to 278 students, 88 being non-Indian. In the 1995-96 academic year we reached an enrollment high of 500 students.

There are thirty (30) tribal colleges in the United States and two in Canada. Funding, other than tuition, comes from the Tribally Controlled Community College Act of 1978. **In 1997 we received \$2,940---some years as low as \$1,900, for each tribally enrolled Indian student. As public institutions, we cannot discriminate. We accept non-Indian students yet receive no base funding.** We are severely underfunded.

The current Wisconsin General Purpose Revenue (GPR) per full time equivalent (FTE) student in the UW System is nearly \$7,000; federal funding is about \$3500 per FTE. Yet, UW personnel claim they are underfunded. Recall also, that the UW System has an embarrassing record when it comes to serving Native Americans.

The miracle of tribal colleges is that so much is accomplished with so little. Keep in mind

- that their students come from a high risk population.
- that they come with very poor academic skills.
- that they come from families where no one possesses a college degree.
- that many times, no family member possesses even a high school diploma.
- that reservations are the most poverty stricken areas in the country
- that Menominee College is located in Wisconsin's poorest county
- that it is in the 13th poorest county in the entire United States.

Education is the state's responsibility. Two Indian communities are successfully helping themselves and their non-Indian neighbors. They are bringing non-Indian people onto Reservations and

communication occurs,

ideas shared,

attitudes changed,

values taught,

prejudices erased,

friendships developed,

and lifelong learning begins in earnest for future generations.

Seldom are good things heard about Reservations. In heralding that good news, **I ask that you amend the proposed budget to include \$3,000 per FTE for tribal college non-Indian students.** The miracle of the colleges must continue. I am requesting money for non-Indian students so the colleges survive. If you cannot do it in justice, then do it in charity.

Thank You

N4999 Pine Lane
Shawano, WI 54166-6209
April 15, 1997

Representative Scott Jensen
Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee

RE: STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR NON-INDIAN STUDENTS
AT THE COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION AND LAC COURTE OREILLES
OJIBWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dear Representative Jensen:

As a 45 year old, non-traditional, non-Native American female, returning to college has been a challenge.

Being able to attend the College of the Menominee Nation in Keshena, Wisconsin, has truly been a blessing in disguise. After being in the work force in excess of twenty-five years, the thought of going to school again was frightening. Several thoughts ran continuously through my mind. How would our family survive without a second paycheck? Did I know how to study, after being out of school for so long? Would I fit in with the younger generation (those newly out of high-school)? Was I smart enough to learn what kids now learn in high school? Would I get the support from family, school faculty and staff that I desperately needed? The thought of going to school at a larger college such as UW Green Bay or UW Oshkosh, was overwhelming. Located 15 minutes from my home, CMN is very convenient. Whereas, travel time to UWGB is one hour and ten minutes away and UWO is one hour and thirty minutes away. The thoughts of a daily commute to these colleges were frightening, considering the amount of snow and ice our area annually receives, not to mention the large class sizes.

The College of the Menominee Nation is not a private college. In the four short years of their existence, they have two hundred seventy-eight enrolled students at CMN, the majority of which are non-traditional students. I am one of eighty-eight non-Native American students there. Although I am in the minority at CMN, I have not experienced any discrimination of any sort. For me, being allowed to attend CMN has been a privilege. I see CMN as a blend of cultures. I have learned a great deal about a culture other than my own. Other non-Native American students have also shared this fact with me. I consider CMN a multi-cultural college, breaking down barriers among the students as well as surrounding communities.

As a third semester full-time business student, I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know a number of students as well as faculty. I am currently co-secretary for CMN Student Government. Students have shared with me their gratitude and appreciation for having a team of exceptional instructors who

truly care about the student and go out of their way to help the student succeed.

President Verna Fowler, along with her staff, is committed to helping students reach their full potential in today's society. They challenge us to do the best we can and empower the student body to take an active roll in today's society.

I am requesting an amendment to the State's 1997-~~1999~~ Biennial Budget, to include \$3,000.00 of funding per non-Indian student at the above mentioned colleges.

I have been a resident and taxpayer, of the State of Wisconsin all of my life. I believe, very strongly, that CMN be treated equal to the other higher education institutions in the State and receive equal funding. Doesn't our government profess "equal opportunity for all"?

CMN has changed the lives of many Native Americans, as well as non-Indian such as myself, in the area. CMN has given us the opportunity to grow and become better citizens of the State of Wisconsin, through their excellent quality of education. I am proud to say that I can answer YES! to all of my doubting questions. I am looking forward to transferring to UWGB next year as a full standing junior. I believe I now have the skills to succeed both at the larger university and in society.

Please consider our request to amend the State's budget to include \$3,000.00 funding per non-Indian student at the College of Menominee Nation and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, located here in Wisconsin.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you.

Sincerely,



Donna M. Gueths

cc: Senator Brian Burke, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance

April 14, 1997

Joint Committee on Finance

Support letter on funding for non-Indian Students

My name is Wayne Malone Sr. I am in my fourth semester at the College of the Menominee Nation. I am presently in the Human Services Associate Degree 2+2 Transfer Program the college has with the University of Wisconsin Green Bay.

The first thing I want to show you is the correlation of where I came from and where I would probably be if it were not for the College of the Menominee Nation.

I was born and raised on the Stockbridge/Munsee reservation in Shawano County. When I turned 13 my mother and 5 children moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This is where I dropped out of high school. Through the next 30 years of my life I yielded to peer pressure and was introduced to alcohol, marijuana and other evils in the fast lane of life. I had a few scrapes with the law; I was on a fast lane headed for no where. I finally met a lady with some sense and together with our 2 girls we moved back home (S/M reservation) in July of 92, to escape the fast life of the city and raise our daughters where our roots are.

I have accomplished a lot in the last 5 years; the things I never thought before were attainable. I have to give thanks to the College of the Menominee Nation which has given me direction in my life. I honestly believe that had I not enrolled in college and found some success as well as direction, I would be back in the big city looking for a fast lane. I only wish that the College of the Menominee Nation would have been built 28 years earlier.

The benefit of integration is the personal growth you see in each person as they learn cultural ways different from their own. The blending and changing of their ideas as they work on activities together, such as a Fish Boil or a Pow Wow Committee. These feelings are evident as deep friendships develop.

I say to you with all due respect, the College of the Menominee Nation does not discriminate. It is an equal opportunity college. It is the responsibility of State Legislators to see that Wisconsin citizens have an equal opportunity. Our college needs your help to fund citizens of this great State so we all can have an equal chance. This is why I am asking you to amend Governor Thompson's 1997-99 budget proposal and to appropriate \$3,000 for the non-Indian students who attend the 2 Wisconsin Tribal Colleges-College of Menominee Nation and Lac Courte Oreilles Community College. Thank you for listening.

Wayne Malone Sr.

Wayne J. Malone Sr., President of Student Government

Thursday, April 17, 1997

TO: JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: SHAWANO TRAIL ASSOCIATION SNOWMOBILE CLUB

NOTE: THIS ORGANIZATION REPRESENTS 20 CLUBS IN SHAWANO COUNTY,

PLEASE SUPPORT THE 1% SOLUTION PROGRAM, OUR CLUB NO LONGER CAN SURVIVE SOLELY ON USER FEES AND VOLUNTEER DOLLARS. WE NEED \$1.8 MILLION DOLLARS FOR EACH OF THE NEXT TWO FISCAL YEARS. WE PRESENTLY HAVE THE BEST SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM IN NORTH AMERICA, BUT TO STAY THIS WAY WE NEED HELP! OUR CLUB WITH THE THOUSANDS OF OTHER CLUB MEMBERS, VOLUNTEER HOURS OF TIME TO MAKE THIS SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM BE SUCCESSFUL. EACH YEAR OUR CLUB LIKE SO MANY OTHERS HOLD FUNCTIONS TO RAISE MONIES TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM WHICH MEET ABOUNDING SUCCESS. AS VOLUNTEERS, WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE PROUD AND, AS VOLUNTEERS, WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO ASK FOR THE NECESSARY GPR DOLLARS FOR THIS PROGRAM. WE NEED THE \$1.8 MILLION TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM FROM THE GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUES (GPR) .

**SHAWANO ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT: TOM GWIDT
P.O. BOX 174
N4844 MAIN ST.
KRAKOW, WISC, 54137**

I am MH from Sheboygan Falls. I am on the AWSC safety committee and
volunteer
have been a DNR certified safety instructor for almost 15 years.

I am speaking today to gain \$1.8 million per year in general purpose revenue
for snowmobile law enforcement and safety education programs.

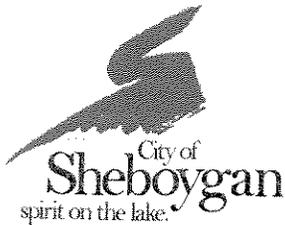
Snowmobiling contributes much to the State of Wisconsin thru volunteerism,
tourism and tax revenues.

As was made evident this past season, there is a huge need for additional law
enforcement both from the DNR wardens and from county sheriff's officers.

Safety education also needs to be increased. As part of that we are proposing
that snowmobile education be made mandatory for anyone born after July 1986.

Additional restrictive laws that for the most part we ~~can~~ ^{DO} not ~~find~~ ^{HAVE} the people to
enforce, are not the answer. What we really need is MORE law enforcement
and education. To operate these programs, more moneys are need.

Therefore please include the \$1.8 million per year for the DNR part of the
snowmobile program in the budget that will be passed this summer.



Presentation to
Joint Finance Committee Teleconference Hearing
April 17, 1997
DePere, Wisconsin

Ref: Funding for State Transit Operating Assistance

The Governor has proposed no increase in State transit operating assistance (WisSTAT 85.20) for Wisconsin's cities. This is most unfortunate in light of the need for more transit service to move welfare recipients into jobs and the continued decline of federal transit operations funding.

For fiscal year 1998, the Clinton Administration has proposed the total elimination of federal transit operating assistance. This means that the \$440,000 this year in federal assistance to Madison Metro and the \$2.1 million to Milwaukee County Transit will be eliminated for 1998.

Additionally, the \$3,935,089 received by Wisconsin's twelve small urban bus systems in 1997 will also be eliminated. Under the Clinton proposal, these small bus systems could rob from their capital allocation for operations. However, capital funding for those twelve systems in 1997 totalled \$3,249,427 and only met 25% of their combined documented capital needs.

These losses of federal funds are not likely to be made up by local sources. Since 1994, Sheboygan Transit has cut bus service and raised passenger fares in response to earlier federal cuts. In the meantime, local transit assistance for Sheboygan Transit has actually declined by \$5,000 from \$432,197 in 1994 to \$427,009 in 1997. The constraints placed upon cities to stabilize property taxes decreases their ability to respond to funding dilemmas such as experienced in recent years by Wisconsin's mass transit systems. Further fare hikes and service cuts will occur without increased State funding.

With respect to the W-2 program, 80 - 90% of the current welfare caseload does not own a car or possess a driver's license. Transit services will play a key role in moving welfare recipients to work. In light of the eliminated federal funding, transit systems will have a difficult time maintaining existing services, let alone expand service, without increased State participation.

On behalf of Wisconsin's transit passengers on buses, vans and shared-ride taxis, I request that you support increased transportation funding in order to meet the documented mass transit and transportation needs throughout the State of Wisconsin. Thank you.

Submitted by: Steven Billings, Director of Parking and Transit, City of Sheboygan, Wisconsin

PARKING AND TRANSIT
UTILITY COMMISSION

608 S. COMMERCE ST.
SHEBOYGAN, WI
53081

414/459-3285



LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

1926 Hall Avenue • P.O. Box 320 • Marinette, WI 54143-0320
Phone 715-732-7780 • FAX 715-732-7532

MARINETTE CO. LWCD COMMENTS - St. Norbert College - 4/17/98 97 GOVERNORS BUDGET 1997-99 BIENNIUM - NPS PROGRAM

Bill Kowalski, County Conservationist
Land & Water Conservation Department
1926 Hall Avenue, P.O. Box 320
Marinette, WI 54143-0320
Tel: 715/732-7784

1. We applaud the Governor's foresight in establishing funds to foster a watershed-based trading pilot project. Giving the DNR flexibility to adjust municipal and industrial permits to accommodate such a program is essential to its success, and we appreciate the Governor's leadership in advancing the concept. We also support review and evaluation of watersheds in the state to ensure scarce resources are allocated to areas where they can do the most good.

This must include allocating resources to protect threatened but not yet seriously degraded water resources. We support using a portion of available monies to protect threatened resources vs. having a totally reactive NPS program. This is especially important concerning the enormous pressures facing northern Wisconsin water resources.

2. We disagree with the proposal to increase the powers of the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) in prioritizing, taking applications, reviewing, scoring and evaluating each project in the state. This would result in expansion of a bureaucracy, rather than streamlining the NPS program. We prefer the LWCB be given the responsibility of allocating resources to DNR Basin (Geographic Management Unit, or GMU) teams. The LWCB should allocate funds directly to the 23 Basins (GMUs) where local priorities are set and where allocation of these financial resources to projects should take place.

DNR reorganization, supported by the Governor and the Natural Resources Board was designed to manage the State's water resources more efficiently. Local flexibility and external partner support are cornerstones of DNR reorganization that must be empowered with choices and resources, not dictated by a Madison bureaucracy.

3. We are concerned over the potential loss of staff through increased general revenue bonding which cannot be used for county staff. This will make it difficult to meet contractual commitments with landowners, achieve project goals, and meet legislative mandates for cleaning up the state's waters.

The state must honor existing commitments with counties to implement existing watersheds, including watersheds in the planning phase. A base level of staffing must be maintained to complete these current projects.

4. We are concerned by the proposed two week window allowing requests for funding for any project regardless of whether it has been identified as a priority. This amounts to spreading resources so thinly that the NPS program will be diluted even further. Priorities must be set and carried out, and the NPS program must continue to be watershed-based.

We thank the Joint Finance Committee for having this opportunity to comment.

Joint Committee on Finance

Budget Hearing

April 17, 1997

My name is Paul Grimm. I have been employed as a social worker for 25 years in both public and private agencies, most recently by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Green Bay for the past 14 years and for the last five as director. As of this week I transferred within the diocese to the social concerns department where I serve as a consultant.

My comments today pertain to the area of the budget dealing with Community Aids. I should note that Catholic Social Services in the Green Bay Diocese does not benefit directly from Community Aids funding for its own programs. I speak more out of concern for the families served by a variety of community programs funded by this budget item than from a desire for personal gain to our agency.

It has been my experience over the years that Community Aids funding has provided for many important services to individuals and families in the communities in which they live. Services in the areas of counseling, child care, employment programs for persons with disabilities, residential services, and others have been made possible through Community Aids and have benefited people throughout the state in significant ways.

It is my understanding that the Community Aids program is being cut by \$7 million in the first year of the proposed budget and another \$8.6 million in the second year. It is also my understanding that the budget includes healthy rate increases for nursing homes and hospitals while also putting millions more into prisons. By doing this the budget directs funds away from local community programs that tend to be less expensive and more

convenient for families into more costly institutional responses that separate family members from each other and from supportive neighborhood resources.

Some programs paid for by Community Aids are court ordered services, such as protection for abused or neglected children who must be placed in foster care. Other services, such as those provided to persons who have disabilities or are mentally ill, are not court ordered. I am concerned that these services not court ordered may be lost if funding is not sufficient after the court ordered services are paid for.

Although institutional responses, such as nursing homes, are certainly needed for some people and situations, I believe that community services and programs, such as in-home assistance, are generally preferable to institutional responses. Supporting community-based programs and services promotes good stewardship of our limited resources and strengthens local networks of social support systems and family participation in care.

I would urge that the proposed reductions in community aids for the next budget be eliminated and that the funding level be restored to at least the same amount of funds as are present in the existing budget. By doing so, the state can renew its commitment to providing needed community services in a cost-effective manner that promote family stability on the local level.

Thank you.

Submitted by: Paul K. Grimm

(414) 437 - 7531 Ext. 8299

Diocese of Green Bay

PO Box 23825

Green Bay, WI 54305-3825

Brad Gilbert
Washington School
400 Michigan
Oconto WI 54153

Ladies and Gentlemen, My name is Brad Gilbert. I am a School Guidance Counselor from the Oconto Unified School District.

I would like to address my concerns regarding Assembly Bill 100 ,the transfer of some Drug Free School money to the Dept. of Health and Human Services.

I am opposed to this proposal because I believe Drug Free School money should continue to be spent in prevention , and best remain an education initiative.

Coming from a rural School district in North Eastern Wisconsin, we know that Drug Abuse and Violence are not just urban issues. We pool resources with neighboring school districts, our local Cooperative Education Systems Agency,(CESA-8) , other health service providers, and our local county Human services and Law enforcement, to meet the needs of kids.

We work very close to our local Human Service agency and I can say with out any question that they are stretched to a tremendous extent in reacting to the needs of At-Risk families and individuals in our county. Human Services has a mission to respond to At-Risk families and persons, in a reactive mode. They reach approximately 10% of the population . Schools operate in a prevention mode and our existing delivery model reaches nearly 100% of the students with a safe and drug free message, provided by persons who already have access to and the trust of students.

I fear that if this portion of DFS monies is put into The Department of Human Services to spend at their discretion the following positive existing benefits will be lost.

First, Because of our need to share resources, A local Drug Free Consortium of CESA-8 School districts will end. The purpose of the consortium is to pool and distribute DFS money to fund prevention initiatives, that are shared by several school districts. This same money identifies our local CESA as a clearing house for the awards of our many student mini grants, which are youth authored proposals for funding in Drug, and violence prevention . It also fragments the collective buying power we have in attracting quality lyceum presenters, who due to fee's and time may not be able to visit an isolated rural school district.

The Local CESA Drug Free Consortium also makes possible our Rural County Partnerships. As a Past president of the Oconto County Partnership inc. I testify to the empowerment provided by the allocation of resources, technical support, and expertise we gain from DFS consortium.

In closing Let me say that I personally stand to gain or lose nothing from this decision. My position is non partisan, and that I was gratified and personally validated by the willingness and patience of Sen Robert Cowles of Green Bay to listen to my

concerns. I feel that we have an existing infrastructure to provide an excellent prevention message to our children. And we have demonstrated and will continue to work in partnership with all service providers. In giving over this money to a state bureaucracy we loose local control in a successful education initiative .

Brad Gilbert
Washington School
400 Michigan St
Oconto WI 54153

HEAD START WORKS

WISCONSIN HEAD START ASSOCIATION

We urge your support for an amendment to the 1997 - 1998 state budget in order to maintain the enrollment of 1289 Head Start children currently served with state dollars.

1. State funding for Head Start has not been increased since 1993.
2. The disparity between federal and state Head Start funding has grown. State support per child is currently only 85% of the federal cost per child. Given this disparity, Wisconsin Head Start programs **cannot** continue to serve the same number of children.
3. Head Start is a proven child and family development program, increasing school and social performance, and preparing children for a successful and productive future.
4. More rather than less children's service is needed during implementation of W2.
5. Head Start programs provide valuable support to Head Start families involved in work: family literacy, family preservation and support, assessment of skills, and transitioning families from welfare to work in collaboration with W-2 partners.
6. Head Start is an essential economic ingredient in meeting the needs of families participating in W2: quality child care, employment and job training, and family preservation and support.

To keep Head Start working for Wisconsin, we request that \$742,500 be added to current state Head Start funding of \$4,950,000. This is an increase of only 15% over 1993 funding.

For further info contact
Virginia Roman
Wisconsin Head Start Association
715-342-0511

Tom Mattke
704 Merlin Dr.
Green Bay, WI 54301
(414) 337-9935

Thursday, April 17
Joint Finance Committee Public Hearing St. Norbert College
Steve Miller
Vice President, University of Wisconsin Green Bay Student Government

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor Thompson's proposed budget for the University of Wisconsin System.

We support Governor Thompson's plan to provide a 2% salary increase combined with a 105% tuition spending authority that would allow the regents to satisfy their target of a 4% increase.

Our main concern is the potential that the process might have to upset the balance between state funding and student funding through tuition. Although the need to recruit and retain quality faculty is of utmost importance, to do so at the expense of students by making tuition not affordable, would be an obvious wrong turn for higher education in Wisconsin to take.

The balance we hope will be preserved is roughly analogous to the one a professional football team must maintain during its draft. A fourth or fifth round pick might be able to adequately contribute to the team, but only a first round pick can offer the kind of quality that is needed to build a team around. However, that potential would be completely wasted if in order to pay the player's salary ticket prices were hiked to a level so high that fans could no longer attend.

We hope that a plan can be established that will continue to allow our faculty to be first round picks while ensuring tuition's ticket price remains within students' reach.

One way to assure tuition remains affordable to all students is to increase financial aid to counter the additional tuition increases.

An additional option, one that would provide more long-term stability, would be to pass the Tuition Cap Bill (AB 33). This would cap undergraduate tuition in the UW System at 33% of instructional costs for in-state students, and at 120% for out-of-state students.

The importance of maintaining such a balance cannot be overstated. The flexibility provided by the Governor's proposals are not only a step in the right direction but are vital if the interests of higher education in Wisconsin are to be best served.

WISCONSIN URBAN TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
POSITION STATEMENT
ON
1997-99 BIENNIAL TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

The continued strength of Wisconsin's economy is dependent on an a strong, balanced multimodal transportation system which is sustained by continuing investment. As financial resources tighten, the continued viability of all modes of transportation in our state is threatened. Transportation is a bi-partisan issue. Transportation services are delivered in many ways and benefit every resident of our state.

To support a continued strong transportation system, the Wisconsin Urban Transit Association (WUTA) supports the following:

1. FINANCING THE MULTIMODAL SEGREGATED TRANSPORTATION FUND

Wisconsin's a segregated transportation fund finances a well balanced multimodal transportation network. The fund must be sustained and enriched. Additional revenues are needed since the fund cannot support the State's transportation needs at the current levels.

- A. WUTA supports increasing revenue to the segregated transportation fund. This can be accomplished by increasing existing fees and/or creating new fees (e.g., an additional sales tax levy on car rentals, title transfer fees, expansion of current fees).
- B. WUTA supports an all modes segregated transportation fund. No single transportation mode should be removed from the fund. Nor should any mode be solely funded by general purpose revenues.

2. MAJOR ISSUES IMPACTING THE FUTURE OF WISCONSIN'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

There are several key factors which will highlight the future discussion about transportation in Wisconsin. Wisconsin can be well positioned to support transportation if the resources are available and the major issues are addressed.

- A. ISTEA (the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) is up for reauthorization. ISTEA contains many positive features and promotes a sound multimodal surface transportation program. WUTA supports the reauthorization of ISTEA and will work with all transportation interests to insure that Wisconsin receives its fair share for all modes.
- B. However, the reauthorization of ISTEA and a federal transportation program is not guaranteed. A major change in federal transportation funding direction could impact Wisconsin's transportation policy. Wisconsin, in all likelihood, will approve its transportation budget prior to the completion of work on ISTEA reauthorization. Therefore, a significant shift in state transportation funding policy would not be timely because of the ISTEA reauthorization.

- C. As the economic center of the state, the transportation issues in the Milwaukee area are of critical importance to all Wisconsin residents. WUTA supports the need to make a strong multimodal investment in the Milwaukee area, including development of the proposed light rail line and reconstruction of the Milwaukee County Freeway system.

3. IMPLEMENT THE TRANSLINKS REPORT

WUTA supports the implementation of the multimodal transportation goals stated in Translinks report. The state must begin to implement the policy direction contained in this report. With particular attention to transit, over the next 5-10 years, incremental steps should be taken to implement the recommendations contained in the Translinks report.

4. TRANSPORTATION AS PART OF THE ENTIRE STATE BUDGET PROCESS

Transportation should be dealt with as part of the entire state budget deliberations. It should not be separated, as occurred during the last budget process. This is the only way to get a true picture of total state expenditures.

5. TRANSIT FUNDING

WUTA supports a return to a fixed state percentage formula for distributing state operating assistance. This is the fairest way to distribute aids based on experience. The current formula has inequities, does not treat systems equally within tiers, rewards those who do not accept federal funds, and does not recognize differences in system size.

For the small to medium sized systems, the impact of the elimination in federal aid will have a greater impact than on the state's largest transit system. WUTA recognizes that the state cannot be expected to make up for the loss of all federal transit operating assistance. It must be a partnership between the local and state governments. Towards this end, we support the following operating assistance levels:

- A. 50% state operating assistance for systems operating in areas under 50,000 in population. These are the urban areas which receive the greatest share of federal operating assistance and the areas in which transit service would be most threatened by continuing federal operating assistance cut.
- B. 47.5% state operating assistance for systems operating in areas between 50,000 to 200,000 (plus the City of Waukesha) in population. These urban areas will also be greatly impacted by continuing cuts in federal operating assistance, but not to such an extent as areas under 50,000.
- C. 45% state operating assistance for urban areas over 200,000 in population; i.e., Milwaukee, Madison, and Waukesha. This is the expected level of state operating assistance that these two (2) urban areas will receive in 1996.

Note: In 1996, the federal operating assistance cut was 48% for Milwaukee and Madison and 25% for other transit systems. Most 1996 federal cuts were absorbed by the local municipalities raising property tax support, service cuts and/or fare increases.

CENTER PROJECT
An Affiliated Agency Of The AIDS Resource Center Of Wisconsin

Testimony Before The Joint Finance Committee
In Support Of Increased Funding For AIDS/HIV Services

April 17, 1997

Good day. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee regarding state funding for important areas of AIDS and HIV related service.

My name is Sylvia Lee-Thompson. I am currently the Director of Life Care Services for Center Project, an AIDS Service Organization serving northeast Wisconsin. In this capacity I supervise the day-to-day operation of the provision of agency services for people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

A critical element of this service provision is one-to-one client case management, designed to provide education about the disease process, advocacy, referrals, and coordination of needed services such as medical, dental, mental health, legal, financial, housing, spiritual, and emotional support.

Due to the recent availability of combination drug therapies which are showing promise in combating the effects of AIDS, the provision of these labor intensive case management services has and will continue to be increased because of additional demands associated with these medical advancements. However, funding in the biennial budget for Life Care Services and Early Intervention programs remains flat, resulting in a decreased capacity to provide services due to inflation related increases in the cost of service delivery.

Never before in the history of medicine has a group of patients been required to adhere to a more stringent drug regimen than the individuals who are prescribed a triple combination AIDS drug therapy. A lack of comprehensive HIV case management and support services for the medical management of AIDS jeopardizes access to these new AIDS drugs, and thereby their beneficial effects.

An additional need for increased community-based AIDS services in Wisconsin is supported by data indicating a 25% decrease in the AIDS death rate, coupled with a projection of 400 new HIV cases in 1997. Several critical elements must be present to optimize the medical advances available to these individuals. Without these elements, people with HIV and AIDS who do not follow the stringent medication regimens will quickly develop resistance to the lifesaving as well as long-term cost saving AIDS medications.

A 15% increase for Life Care Services in each year of the budget will ensure that the elements of the Early Intervention Program identify the progression of HIV in newly diagnosed individuals and the need to access primary care. A budget increase will help address the issue of transportation to medical appointments, especially important in rural areas, so that clients will not miss appointments, potentially harming their health status. A budget increase will support nutritional assistance which is even more necessary with extensive dietary requirements of new treatments. In addition, case management services in anticipated increased numbers, will continue to be central in assuring access to housing, financial assistance, and medical services.

A second but equally important adjustment to the biennial budget for persons living with AIDS is improving access to the new life-saving drugs. We would request that the income

eligibility level of the AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program(ADRP) be revised to allow access for persons at 350% of the federal poverty level.

Tragically, the high cost of new AIDS drugs has driven the annual expense of therapy alone to between \$15,000 and \$18,000, while at the same time the ARDP eligibility is at a historical low point. At current 200% of poverty eligibility levels, the ADRP denies access to life-saving medications to any citizen of the state with an income exceeding \$15,000 per year. One can easily compute that we are forcing citizens of Wisconsin into poverty under the current formula.

This low income eligibility level excludes 250 individuals with HIV/AIDS from gaining access to new medications which will maintain their health status and their ability to remain free from other forms of more costly governmental assistance. Most of these individuals make far less than \$25,000 per year, but place a high value on their ability to continue working. We would ask that they not be penalized for their desire to be productive in the workforce while fighting their illness. Life and work ethic such as this is one that traditionally has been a trait of pride for Wisconsin.

We urge these changes to the biennial budget in the interest of maximizing the technological and medical breakthroughs to the fullest for citizens of this state.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to urge your support for these budget initiatives.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvia Lee-Thompson".

Sylvia Lee-Thompson

Senator **Burke**, Representative **Jensen** and members of **the Jt Finance Committee**.

Good Morning. My name is Patricia Finder-Stone. This morning I am presenting testimony for The American Cancer Society, WI Division, which I chair and the Wisconsin Nurses Association as a member of the Public Policy Council.

In your position as members of the Jt. Finance Committee, you have an awesome responsibility as you examine the budget as recommended by the governor as well as respond to concerns you hear from citizens like myself.

You face major financial challenges as you struggle to find new revenue to pay two-thirds of public school costs...and to raise millions of dollars for prison construction and incarceration...to name just a couple items.

But I wish to address the growing health care costs of tobacco related illness. Public awareness of the negative health and economic consequences of tobacco has never been higher. Public and private health costs are about \$1 billion per year, but our current tax of \$.44/pack generates only \$175 million annually. This imbalance should not be shouldered by the taxpayer.

We are pleased to see the governor recognize a need to raise the tax and his proposal is indeed a beginning...but we strongly believe that a \$.56 increase in the tobacco tax can be a more effective approach. A vast majority of state residents concur, as evidenced by a recent St. Norbert College survey. I might add, similar conclusions were reached in a 1993 poll.

A \$.56 increase would raise about \$150 million in new revenue ... but, more importantly, from my perspective as a registered nurse deeply concerned about peoples' lives...it will sharply reduce youngsters smoking. Youth are very sensitive to price increases. And if some of the revenue is focused toward a prevention program...counteracting the relentless advertising targeted toward kids...we can make a difference. We can save lives.

Substantial evidence shows that a 10 % increase in tobacco price causes a

12% drop in youth consumption. We estimate that \$.56 increase would cause a decline in youth smoking by more than 25%.

A tobacco tax increase is economically sound action that the state can take without burdening the general taxpayer. The fiscal climate calls for it. The political environment is ripe to support it. And most importantly, the improved health results demand it

We will appreciate your attention to our concerns

Thank you.

To: All Legislators of the Joint Finance Committee

Subject: THE AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE BOARD

I would like to speak on behalf of the American Indian Language and Culture Board. Having served as an appointed member of this board for the last 3 years, I speak from experience when I relay to you the importance of maintaining this Board.

Not only are we charged with being the only voice from Indian Reservations throughout the State, but we also perform other functions to include:

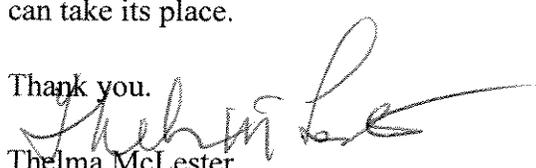
- Advising the University of Wisconsin System
- Advising the Wisconsin Technical College System
- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- The Higher Educational Aids Board
- The American Indian Studies Committee
- Our Tribal Governments
- Public Schools where our children attend
- Indian Communities

These are two-way communication efforts that work since there is no other agency or entity where this type of information can flow.

A recent example of our progress was with the University of Wisconsin System's Indian Language Project. Other examples are being present and providing necessary information to those agencies who work with Indian people.

If this Board is not allowed to continue, this will mean a decline in the communication efforts as well as the outcome of successes that have been achieved for there is no other entity that can take its place.

Thank you.


Thelma McLester

Current Board Member

April 17, 1997 - St. Norbert College Hearing

To: All Legislators of the Joint Finance Committee

Subject: INDIAN STATE GRANT - REQUEST FOR RETURN OF 50 PER CENT
LOSS OF FUNDING

In looking at the future for all people, we cannot lose focus of EDUCATION. Throughout the world, greater emphasis is being placed on the future of education for all people. This should remain a high priority for all peoples.

For our own native people in this country, we have always remained a step behind. It has only been recently that financial aid was made available for Indian people to attend higher institutes of learning, however we still have a long way to go to catch up with the rest of society. Recent welfare recipients are now first-time generation people to attend colleges. When speaking about colleges and university graduates within families, there are no ancestors to point to or speak of or to expect support.

Without notice or a warning of any kind, the fifty per cent cut that took effect in the 1995 school year is now showing the effects. Registrations are down from previous years in colleges and universities for Indian people throughout the State. The fact that financial aid is based on need is the criteria that is/was used speaks to the fact that the Indian people in the State that require or required financial aid help were those in need. Now what this means is that those people will no longer have the opportunity to attend school. The future then will not change as we will continue to have the uneducated and the unemployed.

One final comment is that ever since the cuts were made, we as Tribal Legislators and Education Directors have continued to seek out responses for the action that was taken by the Joint Finance Committee and have continued to seek re-authorization of this funding.

Please note also that organizations such as the Wisconsin Indian Education Association members as well as individual Tribal members throughout the State have written and presented testimony to have the financial aid returned.

Thank you.


Sheila M. Lewis
Quincy Education Director

COMMENTS ON THE GOVERNOR'S BIENNIAL BUDGET
PRESENTED BY CHARLES L. KAMP, GENERAL MANAGER
OF VALLEY TRANSIT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE
WISCONSIN URBAN TRANSIT ASSOCIATION, TO THE
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE IN DEPERE, APRIL 17, 1997

I would like to focus on two points listed in the Wisconsin Urban Transit Association's position statement regarding the 1997-99 budget. First, our association supports a return to a fixed state percentage formula for distributing state operating assistance to Wisconsin public transportation systems. This is extremely important because of the cutbacks in federal funding and the need for revenue stability to keep our transit systems running smoothly in order to get people to jobs, to school, and to other destinations. We are not expecting the state to pick up the entire gap left by the federal cutbacks, only to be a partner with our local municipalities and counties. Wisconsin transit systems have demonstrated that the method of dealing with the cutbacks has been in part to deal with it at the local level by raising fares, improving route efficiencies, and seeking more local funding. We feel the state also has an important stake in continuing to be a strong partner in this effort.

We support a three tiered system of state operating assistance, with 45% state share for the largest systems (Milwaukee and Madison), 47.5% for the urbanized areas between 50,000 and 200,000 in population, such as Green Bay, the Fox Cities, and Sheboygan, and 50% for small urban areas under 50,000 in population such as Manitowoc and Fond du Lac. This would be a simplification compared to the current five tiered system.

We also feel it is very important that Wisconsin's transportation fund continue to be used to finance a well balanced multmodal transportation network. No single mode should be removed from the fund, nor should any mode be solely funded by general purpose revenues. We believe an increase in transportation revenues is necessary, because the current funding levels cannot support the State's transportation needs. The additional revenues could come from a gas tax or an increase in fees from other transportation related functions. Without a revenue increase, Wisconsin's economy will be less competitive, we will not be able to get as many W2 participants to work or to training, and we will not be able to help people with disabilities access jobs and other opportunities.

I thank you for the opportunity to state my concerns, and I would be pleased to try to answer any questions that you might have.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

CHILD WELFARE STANDARDS

The Child Welfare system in Wisconsin, especially in Milwaukee County, is failing in its mission to protect and provide permanency for children in need. In Milwaukee County, the out-of-home caseload grew from 1,220 children in 1986 to nearly 6,000 children in 1994, with costs of care increasing from \$3 M in 1986 to \$30 M in 1994. Child abuse and neglect referrals have doubled from 1986 to 1995, now averaging 900 a month, while funding statewide for child welfare services has decreased. Caseload size in Child Welfare services varies greatly throughout the state, primarily due to lack of consistent state standards and the variability of formulas used to fund services. There is no uniformity in hiring standards, resulting in many agencies hiring staff to perform social work functions who have no Social Work training. Caseloads also vary considerably, with some counties maintaining caseloads six times higher than the Child Welfare League of America recommended standards. Lastly, minimal financial resources have been made available for preventative services, which are less costly to deliver and may often eliminate the need for more costly crisis and out-of-home care.

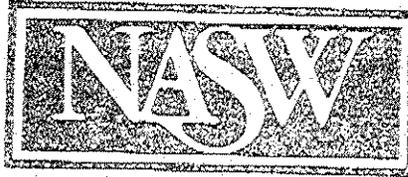
The delivery of Child Welfare services requires highly trained and skilled staff to sensitively make the difficult decisions required to protect children and families. Social Work is the only profession that offers training specifically for child welfare service delivery. Child Welfare training is funded by Social Security Act Title IV-E, and requires participation in an accredited Social Work program. The unique body of knowledge upon which the Social Work profession is based is recognized by numerous government and professional organizations as critical to the delivery of quality child welfare services. The social work profession provides the framework for meeting the challenge of effective assessment, treatment and prevention services necessary to alleviate the social, economic and personal conditions contributing to child abuse and neglect.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers makes the following recommendations to alleviate the current circumstances that has resulted in the failure of the current child welfare system in achieving its mission to protect and enhance the well-being of children.

- *Increase funding to levels that reflect the actual needs of the community, including bilingual, AODA, AODA, and special needs adoptions services.
- *An undergraduate or graduate social work degree should be required for the delivery and administration of social services in public child welfare to ensure that workers have the necessary skills, knowledge and values to provide high quality services.
- *Establish caseload sizes that meet nationally accepted standards of quality. Child Welfare League of America standards are as follows:
 - 12 active intake investigations per month per Social Worker
 - 17 active on-going families per Social Worker, and no more than 1 new case for each 6 open cases
 - 10 active ongoing cases and 4 active investigations per Social Worker
 - 1 Social Work Supervisor for each 5 Social Workers
 - 15 families per Social Worker in a family-centered casework delivery system
 - 2 to 6 families per Social Worker in intensive family-centered crisis services delivery system
 - 12 to 15 children per Social Worker in family foster care services
- *The agency providing the service should have a track record of successfully working collaboratively with a wide range of community services and programs, have mechanisms to allow for worker and

CHILD WELFARE STANDARDS

- client input, and be accountable for the quality and quantity of services provided.
- *The agency providing the service should have a strong affirmative action policy and a good record of hiring and retaining minority staff.
 - *Comprehensive analysis regarding the privatization of child welfare services must occur, examining the efforts and experiences of other states, such as Hawaii, New York and Massachusetts, and developing appropriate standards for the private sector.
 - *Salary levels should reflect education, training, skill, expertise and experience of the staff. A strong benefit package should be provided to recruit, train, and retain the highest qualified individuals. Benefits should include on-going professional development.
 - *The agency should employ full-time rather than part-time staff, to reduce the incidence of staff turnover. A career ladder for experienced staff who dedicate themselves to continuing to work with children and families should be provided, and should include salary differentiation for BSW and MSW degrees and years of experience.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

W-2 REFORM

The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW WI) is proposing a number of changes to the W-2 program as part of the state budget. The proposed changes are as follows:

1) NASW WI opposes the proposal that would mandate the reduction of a participant's grant for twelve months if the individual tested positive for drugs.

This proposal would unnecessarily punish children for the mistakes of their parents. It would also create an additional barrier for parents who try to overcome a drug problem. Instead of reducing the individual's grant, it would be more beneficial to offer the opportunity for substance abuse treatment.

2. NASW WI opposes the replacement of the current fair hearing process for grievances with an administrative procedure conducted by the W-2 agency or DILJD.

As the large number of successful fair hearing appeals in the Pay for Performance Program demonstrates, the fair hearing process is critical to protecting the rights of W-2 participants from errors made by workers. The fair hearing process is a long time federal requirement that will continue for grievances in the administration of the food stamp and medicaid programs and should continue with the administration of W-2. Finally it is imperative in any hearing process that the participants' benefits be maintained until a decision is made on the grievance.

3. NASW WI believes that the budget for W-2 should ensure that all who meet the eligibility requirements and follow the rules receive the services needed (employment programs, child care, health care and transportation).

Currently there is no provision that guarantees participation for all those who are eligible. No family should be denied service because the state fails to provide enough money, especially when economic times are not as good as the present. Families are required to hold up their side of the social contract and the state should be required to do the same.

4. NASW WI believes that W-2 should provide at least the minimum wage rather than a grant for Community Service jobs and Transitional Placement activities to fulfill the work requirement.

In addition to being fair, the minimum wage for these job categories could make participants eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit(EITC), increasing their income. Since the EITC is available only to those who work, it is shortsighted to deny this extra income to working families at the lowest rung of the economic ladder, and also to deny the influx of some 92 million dollars* in these federal funds into the state. Finally the availability of EITC for all W-2 participating families will mitigate the sharp reduction in monthly revenue experienced by large families, including many Hmong families.

5. NASW WI believes that W-2 should permit education and training that develop job skills to fulfill the work requirement. NASW WI also believes that W-2 should allow the teen parents to qualify for W-2 by attending high school.

Numerous studies have shown that education increases an individual's earning power. If the goal of W-2 is to promote self-sufficiency among participants, surely education and training should be key components of such a program. In the absence of changes to W-2, it will be almost impossible for W-2 participants to get education and training, forcing them to stay in lower paying jobs. There would also be no incentive for teen parents to stay in school.

* Based on estimates provided by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to Senators Chvala, Moen and Moore in February 1996

April 17 - De Pere

Wisconsin State Budget Hearing

Roy C. Melvin - Representing AARP Legislative Committee - Dist. 6

Some concerns - 1997-1999 budget.

I am here to discuss some good facts about the budget, as well as some changes needed.

1. We are pleased with the increase in funds for the ombudsman program for nursing home problems. We find it especially important to have someone to try to see to it that patients get the proper care, esp. since the recent publication about some problems.

2. A concern is the imbalance in the distribution of budgeted funds between nursing homes and community and home care (COP). We need more than 800 new COP slots; esp. since we have a waiting list of nearly 9000 people. Home care can end up costing less than nursing home care.

3. Regarding W-2 - corrections are needed since the pay should be raised at least to the current minimum wage. Transitional placements are now to be paid a grant of \$518 per month - should be a going wage.

4. W-2 program needs to be sure to provide adequate training for individuals in the program. Proper child care is needed for working mothers.

(2)

5. transportation needs for the elderly need to be raised more than 1% of the total budget increase.
6. We are not in favor of electric utility mergers.
7. We are not in favor of metallic mining such as Crandon, Wisconsin proposal. The 10 year program to prevent pollution has not been put to 10 year test. The local people are not in favor of the mining in spite of the advertising favoring it.
8. Promote fair reorganization of the way the state long term care should work. We need to follow with the least expensive, yet to be sure of adequate care.



YOUR SUPPORT IS
APPRECIATED

*"to foster the preservation
of Door County's heritage
of natural resources.... for
the health, welfare and
spiritual uplift not only of
its inhabitants, but for
generations to come."*

(from the Articles of
Incorporation, Door County
Environmental Council, 1971)

**door county
environmental
council, inc.**

fish creek, wis.
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