

# ROGER BRESKE

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## MEMORANDUM

December 17, 2001

TO: Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism and Transportation

FR: Senator Roger Breske, Chair

RE: Proposed Clearinghouse Rule 01-117; *relating to the harbor assistance program.*

Clearinghouse Rule 01-117 was recently referred to the Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism and Transportation. For your reference, I have included the analysis from the Department of Transportation below. If you would like to request a hearing, please contact Beth in my office before **Friday January 4, 2002.**

### *Analysis by the Department of Transportation*

This rule making will enable communities where cruise ships are a port of call to apply for Harbor Assistance Program (HAP) funds to construct/improve docking and terminal facilities to accommodate these ships. It will also enable communities that have already received HAP funding to use these previously-constructed facilities for cruise ships.

**Fiscal Effect.** There are potentially twelve communities likely to be affected by this change in policy: Milwaukee, Green Bay, Manitowoc, Sturgeon Bay, Sheboygan, Marinette, Northport, Washburn, Superior, Bayfield, LaCrosse and Prairie du Chien. Six of these communities may seek an amendment to their current HAP agreement for projects that have already been constructed (Green Bay, Northport, Superior, Marinette, Milwaukee and LaCrosse). Other than a few hours of HAP staff time, there would be no cost associated with this change. The communities most likely to seek HAP funding within the next 8-10 years to construct new facilities for cruise ships are Manitowoc, Sturgeon Bay, and Milwaukee. The current HAP budget is \$4 million for the biennium. If these projects are economically justified and compete favorably against applications to improve cargohandling facilities, almost half of the current HAP budget could be spent for this type of project over the next 8-10 years.