

2003 Joint Committee on Audit

2004 Audit Request Letters

03hr\_JC-Au\_Misc\_pt25a through 24b



State of Wisconsin \ LEGISLATIVE AUDIT BUREAU

JANICE MUELLER  
STATE AUDITOR

22 E. MIFFLIN ST., STE. 500  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703  
(608) 266-2818  
FAX (608) 267-0410  
Leg.Audit.Info@legis.state.wi.us

February 5, 2004

FEB 05 2004

Representative Lorraine Seratti  
18 North, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Representative Seratti:

Thank you for your letter requesting a financial analysis of the Florence County School District. Section 13.94 (1)(m), Wis. Stats., specifies that the Legislative Audit Bureau may audit the records of a school district at the direction of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. Therefore, I have forwarded a copy of your request to the Committee co-chairpersons for their consideration.

The co-chairs meet monthly to discuss all pending audit requests. Shortly after the next meeting, I expect they would contact you directly to let you know the status of the request.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Janice Mueller  
State Auditor

JM/bm

Enclosures

cc: Senator Carol A. Roessler  
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

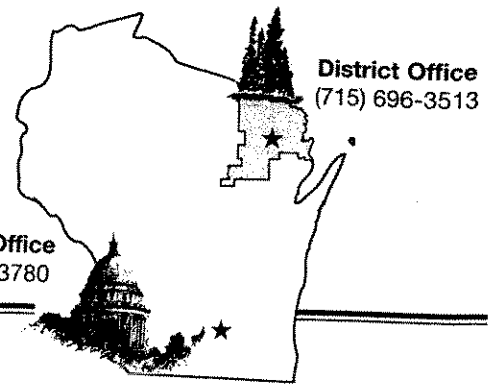
Assembly Speaker John Gard

Jan Dooley, Administrator  
Florence County School District

**LORRAINE M.  
SERATTI**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
36<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

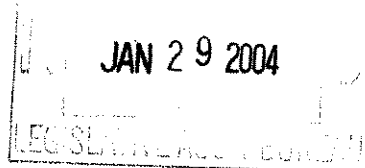
P.O. Box 8953, State Capitol • Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8953  
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0036 • Fax: (608) 282-3636 • Rep.Seratti@legis.state.wi.us

**Madison Office**  
(608) 266-3780



January 29, 2004

Janice Mueller, State Auditor  
Legislative Audit Bureau  
22 E Mifflin St Ste 500  
Madison WI 53703



Dear Janice:

The Florence County School District is struggling through a very difficult financial period, where the future viability of the district is being questioned. Several factors are contributing to the current shortfall in revenue. A previous administrator's contract was bought out resulting in a \$430,000 payment by the district. Accounting errors in the current budget compounded the problem when monies were spent, but those payments were not reflected in the district's operating account balance. As a result of the erroneous account balance no staff layoffs were made by the school board, thus further crippling the district's efforts to adjust its current operating budget.

Healthcare costs total \$1.8 million of the district's current \$7.8 million budget. In addition to benefit costs for current employees, there is an unfunded liability for early retirement benefits due to 35 former staff members. The district has paid the interest and rolled over existing debt, in order to be able to meet current operating expenses. According to projections, they will be deficit spending before the end of this school year.

What is most troubling to the district is the uncertainty of whether the existing operating loan can be renewed at the end of the school year. Given the current economic conditions it is unlikely that voters in the district would support a referendum to bail the district out financially as school levy increases for the last two years have been in the double digits.

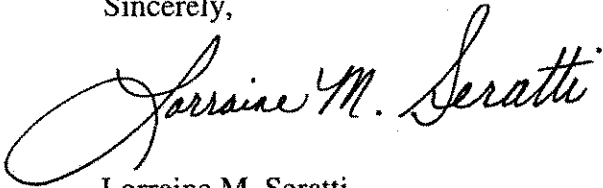
My office recently organized a brain storming session including the district administrator, members of the school board, the Department of Public Instruction, Legislative Council, and Legislative Fiscal Bureau. One of the ideas that came out of the meeting was to have a third-party objective analysis of the district's operations and finances.

I am formally submitting a request for the Audit Bureau to conduct the financial analysis, report its findings, and make recommendations on efficiencies the district could implement to ensure the viability of the district.

Florence School District Audit Request  
Page 2  
January 29, 2004

Please contact my office (608-266-3780), at your earliest convenience, to discuss this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine M. Seratti". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Lorraine M. Seratti  
State Representative  
36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

LMS/vw

cc: Jan Dooley, District Administrator  
Speaker John Gard

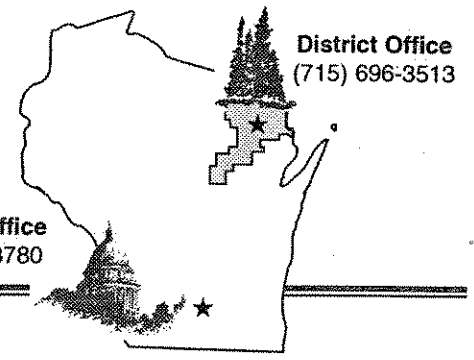
APR 29 2004

**LORRAINE M.  
SERATTI**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
36TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

P.O. Box 8953, State Capitol • Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8953  
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0036 • Fax: (608) 282-3636 • Rep.Seratti@legis.state.wi.us

**Madison Office**  
(608) 266-3780



April 29, 2004

Ms. Shannon Hall  
Department of Health and Family Services  
Division of Health Care Financing  
1 West Wilson Street  
Madison, WI 53701-0309

*Handwritten signature/initials*

Dear Ms. Hall,

I am writing you regarding a constituent of mine, John Nowicki, of Niagara Chiropractic.

It is my understanding that you have been in contact with Dr. Nowicki regarding alleged documentation errors that were discovered in an audit of Niagara Chiropractic in the fall of 2002. Upon the conclusion of the audit in early 2003, the Department requested repayment of monies that it believed were overpayments due to alleged documentation errors. Dr. Nowicki requested that the Department provide him with examples of acceptable chiropractic notes, three of which were provided by you.

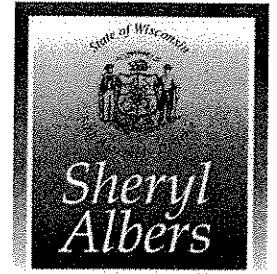
The examples that you sent only further clouded the situation. One of the examples, #2 to be specific, was from Niagara Chiropractic. Yet, example #2 was also one of the documents originally called into question by the Department audit. How can a chiropractic note be rejected by the Department as too vague and later held up as an example of proper procedure? I believe that this discrepancy brings the entire audit into question.

I look forward to your response and I thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Lorraine M. Seratti  
State Representative  
36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

cc: Helene Nelson  
John Nowicki  
Representative Jeskewitz  
Senator Roessler ✓



February 5, 2004

Janice Mueller, State Auditor  
Legislative Audit Bureau  
22 E Mifflin St, Suite 500  
Madison WI 53703

Dear Janice:

I would like to request that your auditors evaluate those awards made under the Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities program at the Department of Commerce since January 1, 2003. Concerns about the award process have been brought to me recently by City of Elroy. I have attached to this letter a copy of the Department of Commerce's review of Elroy's proposal, dated December 17, 2003.

As you will note in the review, the staff recommendation was to fund the project at \$224,758, 95.2% of the requested amount. Upon final review, officials at the Department of Commerce drastically slashed the amount recommended by staff, providing only \$71,000. This is a decrease of over three times the original recommendation. The new figure is just 30% of the requested amount.

Local officials in Elroy have brought some of their concerns to me. For instance, the Department of Commerce now handles CDBG-PF applications on a rolling basis. Previously, grants were held until a fixed date, then evaluated and funded in a competitive process. The program still receives its funds annually.

Is there a statistically significant trend of larger awards nearer the date when program funding is replenished? Have similar proposals been awarded significantly different grant amounts? Have projects in certain parts of the state received a greater percentage of requested funding than projects in other parts of the state?

I want to make certain that officials in Elroy can rest assured knowing that all grants are considered on a fair, level, and non-partisan playing field. Our communities deserve no less.

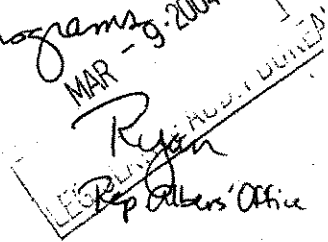
Thank you for your consideration of this request. I would be happy to speak with you or your auditors if there are further questions regarding my inquiry.

Sincerely,

Sheryl K. Albers  
State Representative  
50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

cc: Rep. Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Audit  
Sen. Carol Roessler, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Audit

Follow-up into on  
audit request -  
DO Commerce grant  
programs - 9-2004



CITY OF ELROY  
MAYOR  
225 Main Street  
Elroy, WI 53929  
(608) 462-2400

February 23, 2004

SA copy  
- original copy is [unclear]  
copy to Rep. Albers  
Audit / see go [unclear]

Mr. James Frymark  
Director  
Bureau of Community Finance  
Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce  
PO Box 7970  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Frymark:

On behalf of the City of Elroy, I must turn down the Department of Commerce's commitment to the City of Elroy for a Public Facilities Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$71,000.

Unfortunately for Elroy and its residents, the award amount does not enable the project to be financially feasible at this time. With the \$71,000 award, Elroy would have to borrow more funds against our general obligation limit to proceed with the project. The funding required for this project would undermine the city's safety net in general obligation debt.

As our City Administrator, Alan Wildman, discussed during his meeting with you, in December of 2002, Elroy took on general obligation debt in the amount of \$465,000. This new debt was in the interest of economic development. The result of the borrowing was a new manufacturing plant consisting of 40,000 square feet employing 50 individuals. The plant continues to recruit new employees weekly. The new debt was used to extend water and sanitary sewer service to the new plant. Elroy could have secured an Economic Development CDBG to fund this project. However, after several meetings with Commerce staff and city officials, the plant owner opted not to supply the required information to Commerce to enable Elroy to receive the development grant funding from the state. Elroy did recognize the potential this development presented and utilized its general obligation capacity to fund the economic development.

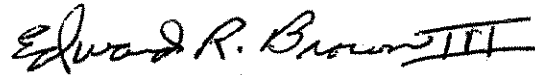
Since we utilized general obligation debt for economic development, we had hoped our CDBG-PF application would have been more financially supported.

Another concern we have is the financial impact of the newly adopted Commerce "3%" rule for combined utility rates on CDBG-PF applicants. Literal application of this rule has resulted in a substantial reduction in PF funding, forcing Elroy to consider making up the difference in project utility rates. The latter would result in

rates that would be prohibitively high for local residents. In fact, such new rates would be more than twice what a typical rate for water would be for similar sized communities in Wisconsin. We conclude that the effect of the new Department policy will make use of this important funding program impossible for most small communities.

Due to the safety and health concerns that would be resolved by the project contained in our application, the City of Elroy does reserve the possibility of applying for CDBG-PF funding in the near future for our project. Thank you for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

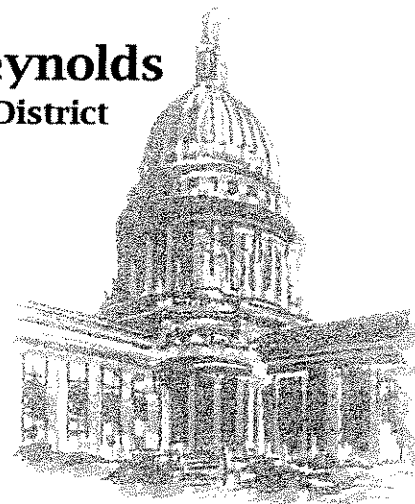


Edward R. Brown, III  
Mayor

Cc: Mr. Dale Schultz, Wisconsin Senate  
Ms. Sheryl Albers, Wisconsin General Assembly  
Mr. Cory Nettles, Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce



**State Senator Tom Reynolds**  
**5th Senate District**



MAR 29 2004

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT BUREAU

March 15, 2004

Ms. Janice Mueller, State Auditor  
Legislative Audit Bureau  
22 E. Mifflin; Suite 500  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Ms. Mueller:

I am writing on behalf of one of my constituents, Mr. Louis Kowieski of West Allis. Louis has been a tireless advocate for the Great Lakes sports fishermen. He has been involved in many legislative efforts to preserve the rights of fishermen in our statutes and administrative codes.

He has contacted me regarding the stamp increase that was passed in last year's state budget, taking the cost from \$7.50 to \$10.25. The Wisconsin Statutes under ss. 29.191 (5) (e) provide that the revenues from the stamps are to be used "...to supplement and enhance existing trout and salmon rearing and stocking program...to administer this subsection". Mr. Kowieski indicated to my office that the most of the new additional revenues would be spent on the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery, which raises not only trout and salmon but also other fish including Muskies, Pickerel and other warm and cold-water species.

I would like to respectfully request that the Audit Bureau conduct an accounting of how the revenues for the trout and salmon stamp are spent. Further, I would like to know what statutory change have occurred regarding trout and salmon stamp revenues since the program's inception.

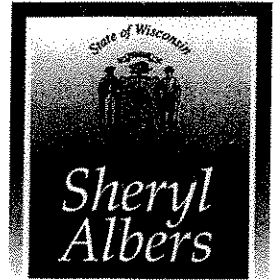
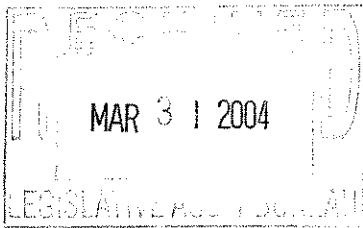
I look forward to your response to request on behalf of Mr. Kowieski.

Sincerely,

Tom Reynolds  
State Senator  
5th Senate District

TGR/lhw

cc: Louis Kowieski, West Allis



March 29, 2004

Janice Mueller, State Auditor  
Legislative Audit Bureau  
22 E. Mifflin Street, Suite 500  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Janice,

At the request of a police chief in my district, I would like to encourage your office to investigate the methods by which preliminary breath test devices are approved and distributed to local law enforcement officials by the State of Wisconsin.

My understanding is that the State of Wisconsin currently approves four preliminary breath testers available under contracts with two separate suppliers. The state then makes these devices available to local law enforcement agencies through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

It is my hope that you will review, among others, the following issues during the course of your inquiry, comparing Wisconsin's procedures and policies to those of other states:

- Testing and approval of devices, and source of funds for testing and approval
- Cost of devices, including any difference between what the state purchases devices for and what price local law enforcement is charged
- Method of acquisition (local vs. state, bidding process for contracts)
- Whether listed products can be acquired from multiple vendors
- Maintenance agreements for devices

I would like to ensure that local law enforcement agencies have a reasonable choice of quality products for the best possible price in the market. The assistance of your auditors in making this determination would be extremely helpful.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Sheryl K. Albers  
State Representative  
50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



State of Wisconsin \ LEGISLATIVE AUDIT BUREAU

JANICE MUELLER  
STATE AUDITOR

22 E. MIFFLIN ST., STE. 500  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703  
(608) 266-2818  
FAX (608) 267-0410  
Leg.Audit.Info@legis.state.wi.us

April 7, 2004

Representative Sheryl Albers  
3 North, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Representative Albers: *Sheryl*

Thank you for your letter requesting an audit to examine the methods by which preliminary breath test devices are approved and distributed by the State to local law enforcement officials. I have forwarded a copy of your request to the co-chairpersons of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee for their consideration. Given our current workload, I cannot initiate an audit of an issue of this size and scope without the approval of the Committee.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

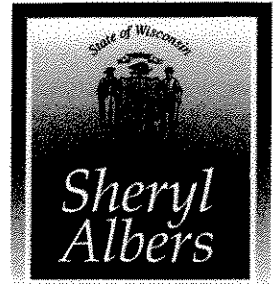
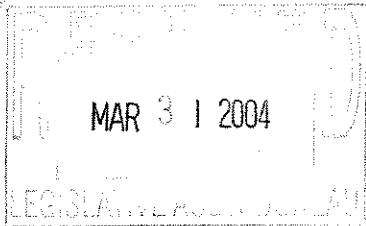
Sincerely,

Janice Mueller  
State Auditor

JM/bm

Enclosure

cc: Senator Carol A. Roessler  
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz



March 29, 2004

Janice Mueller, State Auditor  
Legislative Audit Bureau  
22 E. Mifflin Street, Suite 500  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Janice,

At the request of a police chief in my district, I would like to encourage your office to investigate the methods by which preliminary breath test devices are approved and distributed to local law enforcement officials by the State of Wisconsin.

My understanding is that the State of Wisconsin currently approves four preliminary breath testers available under contracts with two separate suppliers. The state then makes these devices available to local law enforcement agencies through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

It is my hope that you will review, among others, the following issues during the course of your inquiry, comparing Wisconsin's procedures and policies to those of other states:

- Testing and approval of devices, and source of funds for testing and approval
- Cost of devices, including any difference between what the state purchases devices for and what price local law enforcement is charged
- Method of acquisition (local vs. state, bidding process for contracts)
- Whether listed products can be acquired from multiple vendors
- Maintenance agreements for devices

I would like to ensure that local law enforcement agencies have a reasonable choice of quality products for the best possible price in the market. The assistance of your auditors in making this determination would be extremely helpful.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Sheryl K. Albers  
State Representative  
50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

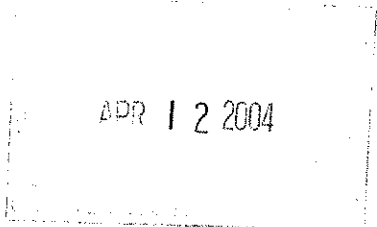
CHAIR:  
Energy and Utilities Committee

MEMBER:  
Higher Education and Tourism  
Joint Committee on Audit  
State Building Commission



April 8, 2004

Senator Carol Roessler, Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 8 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison 53707-7882



Dear Senator Roessler: *Carol*

I am writing to request an audit regarding state fleet purchases and organization. In recent weeks, news accounts have detailed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) northern region paying \$10.4 million to buy vehicles for use by staff over the last ten years. As I understand it, the Department of Administration's own plan for consolidation of fleet management programs is currently in progress, but has not been fully implemented. I believe state fleet purchases and organization would merit a review by the Legislative Audit Bureau.

The State of Wisconsin owns and maintains a fleet of over 7,000 vehicles for use by employees on official state business. The vehicles are divided up into four major fleets, which are operated by the Department of Administration, Department of Transportation, DNR, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Family Services also operate smaller fleets.

The DOA Central fleet has over 2,000 vehicles and is the largest fleet operated by the State. At \$.24 per mile, the DOA fleet currently has one of the lowest fleet costs per miles in the nation. The overall state fleet incurs costs of \$.37 per mile. If DNR and other agencies could match the efficiency of DOA's fleet, we could potentially save millions.

Under 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, DOA was required to submit a fleet consolidation plan to the Legislative Joint Committee on Finance. In September of 2000, former DOA Secretary Lightbourn briefed Joint Finance on a 5-year action plan. The plan is based on the Final Report on Consolidation of Fleet Management Programs (DMG Maximus, August 2000).

The Final Report projects millions in savings from fleet management consolidation (p.79). The plan recommended centralizing the fleet management system, standardizing the methodology for calculating per-mile costs, outsourcing commercial maintenance and repair management and consolidating motor pool operations in Madison. I think we need an update on the report. In particular, the progress to date and when the plan will be completed.

A northern newspaper recently reported one DNR region (the agency has a total of five field regions in addition to the Madison central office) purchased \$10 million on new vehicles and doubled the size of their fleet in ten years. It was reported that the DNR northern region:

- Spent \$1.9 million in 2002, purchasing 82 vehicles and increasing their fleet to 453 at the end of that

Office:  
Room 122 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
608-266-0484

Toll-Free Hotline: 1-800-334-1465  
TDD Hotline: 1-800-228-2115  
Fax: 608-267-0304

District:  
300 W. St. Joseph Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301-2328  
920-448-5092  
Fax: 920-448-5093

year. This was a 58% increase over 2001.

- 2002 purchases included 24 GMC Sierras, 12 Dodge Rams, eight Ford Taurus, five Dodge Caravans, and three GMC Yukons.
- Spent \$1.2 million in 2001 (then a record high) and was 127 percent higher than the \$836,069 the agency spent in 1993.
- 2001 purchases included two Chevrolet Suburbans, three Caravans, five Taurus, three Ford Expeditions and three Jeep Cherokees.

In light of this information, I am respectfully asking for an audit to find cost savings within the state fleet. I view this as an opportunity to improve state efficiency and protect Wisconsin taxpayers.

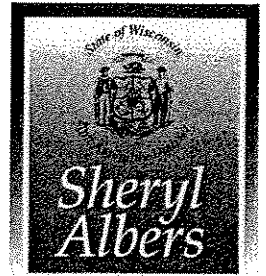
Sincerely,



ROBERT L. COWLES

Cc: Janice Mueller, State Auditor

APR 14 2004



April 13, 2004

Rep. Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Audit  
Room 314 North, State Capitol  
Madison WI 53708

Sen. Carol Roessler  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Audit  
Room 8 South, State Capitol  
Madison WI 53707

Dear Rep. Jeskewitz and Sen. Roessler,

Based on the following materials I received from Martin Beil of AFSCME Council #24, along with comments shared by numerous staff who are or have been employed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT), I would strongly encourage the Joint Committee on Audit to consider authorizing a study of how funds are spent by the Department of Transportation (DOT) on issues relating to design and construction of our highways/intersections.

I am aware that the Legislative Audit Bureau investigated many of these issues in a 1997 report (97-4, Management of the Highway Program). However, based on more recent assertions made by the WSEU, it seem changes encouraged at that time were never embraced, or, that only some of the suggested changes made previously were adopted as policy. I believe a second review is necessary, in order to determine whether any efforts have been made to ensure wise expenditure of taxpayers' dollars, and to determine whether the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules needs to be informed of DOT's inattention to concerns of the Legislature.

Surely, as we strive to make government more efficient, it is foolish to contract necessary tasks out to private companies if those contracts cost taxpayers more than hiring or retaining public employees to perform the same duties. Voters in my district do not care who designs their roads. However, all who use our highways do want to know they are properly designed and cost efficient.

As elected officials, we oversee the funds provided us by taxpayers. We owe it to taxpayers, as well as to those public employees whose jobs are in jeopardy as a result of this contracting, to find out if in fact DOT's current practices are an effective stewardship of tax dollars.

While I am aware that the Legislative Audit Bureau is extremely busy, I believe that this matter cannot be ignored given the volume of spending that occurs on highway construction in Wisconsin. At a time when gas prices are approaching all-time highs and Wisconsin's gas tax has again increased yet again without a vote, our constituents deserve to know that the money they are turning over to the government each time they fill up their cars is not being wasted on mismanagement and cost overruns.

I certainly appreciate your attention to these concerns and would be grateful for any positive action your committee might take on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheryl K. Albers', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Sheryl K. Albers  
State Representative  
50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

cc: Janice Mueller, Legislative Audit Bureau  
Martin Beil, Executive Director, WSEU





# Wisconsin State Employees Union

## Council #24

**AFL-CIO**

8033 Excelsior Drive, Suite C  
Madison, WI 53717  
Phone 608/836-0024  
Fax 608/836-0222  
Website <http://wseu-24.org>

Bill Fendel, President  
Martin Beil, Executive Director

March 15, 2004

To the Members of the Wisconsin Legislature,

I am writing as it relates to the enclosed letter that a member of our union has brought to our attention. It is a letter from a consultant firm, Graef Anhalt Schloemer & Associates Inc., soliciting Department of Transportation - District One officials for work in the area.

During a previous selection process conducted by department staff that is experienced with the area's consulting firms and their performance, this firm was not chosen for use as an outsourced engineering firm. At a meeting with District Project Development section managers and district leadership, the firm berioaned the fact that they may have to layoff former DOT staff now in their employment.

The use of outside consultant firms to perform functions of design and construction administration is an expensive practice that has contributed to massive cost overruns in the DOT's budget. Time and time again our members in the DOT have been told that due to budget constraints, the Department is forced to use consultant firms. Guaranteed profit margins and DOT generated overhead charges, coupled with no back charging for errors and rework costs incurred by the use of DOT staff to solve these problems, makes their use a costly waste of federal and state gas tax dollars.

Nearly every day our office receives "at risk" letters describing the latest layoffs that will be occurring in worksites across the agencies. No similar meeting as the one GAS & Associates received has ever occurred to my knowledge with any of our own state employees. In the DOT's Division of Districts they are planning on deleting 108 positions by March of 2005. Incredibly, there is no discussion or consideration of reducing costly out sourcing by utilizing these 108 positions, and thus saving tax dollars.

Since the meeting with District One leadership on December 19, GAS & Associates has been given work on projects in the District. Our concerned member even went to some of the project managers that originally skipped over GAS and asked why they were not chosen. They said it was done because of poor performance and better candidates available. Clearly these factors are no longer of consequence.

I respectfully call on the leadership of the Wisconsin Legislature to add the costly practice of contracting out design, construction and maintenance functions to your timely review of business practices in the DOT. Senator Cowles' proposed bill on Highway Cost Accountability is a long overdue step in the right direction of returning the DOT to the taxpayers. The center of this bill must include cost analysis mechanisms that review the use of outside consultant firms to perform functions that the DOT itself can do more cost effectively, given the resources needed.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Martin Beil  
Executive Director



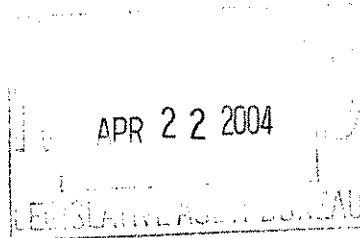


State Representative

**Dan Meyer**

Member: Joint Committee on Finance

April 21, 2004



Janice Mueller, State Auditor  
Legislative Audit Bureau  
22 E. Mifflin Street, Suite 500  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear State Auditor Mueller:

I am writing to request an audit of vehicle purchases by the Department of Natural Resources and the decision making process used by the DNR with regards to such purchases. Recently, an investigative reporting series by *The Lakeland Times*, in my district discovered that the Department of Natural Resources northern region has paid \$10.4 million to buy vehicles for use by staff over the last ten years. I believe state fleet purchases and the decision making process used by the DNR for such purchases would merit a review by the Legislative Audit Bureau.

I was stunned when I read the articles on the amount of taxpayer dollars that the Department of Natural Resources is spending on purchasing vehicles. During these difficult economic times and with reductions in budgets, I'm surprised that the DNR would place a priority on buying vehicles over putting people in the field. In addition, I question why they are buying high-priced vehicles at a time when the Department of Natural Resources and Secretary Hassett say that they do not have enough money in their budget to fight the invasive species invading our state's waterways.

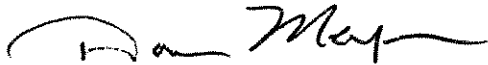
The Department of Natural Resources has indicated that the public can expect poorer service and slower response times. Secretary Hassett has previously referred to budget cuts as "devastating." The DNR has proposed closing service centers and cutting fish hatcheries. When asked why they are not doing more to fight invasive species they respond by indicating that they do not have enough resources.

The DNR needs a reality check when it comes to setting the priorities that they have established. Purchasing large expensive vehicles should not be more important than putting people in the field, keeping service centers open, operating the state's fish hatcheries or fighting invasive species.

The recent investigation done by *The Lakeland Times* appeared to uncover significant gaps in the DNR's tracking of vehicle purchases and the decisions made surrounding such purchases. I believe a more extensive audit by the Legislative Audit Bureau is warranted at this time, and respectfully request your assistance in supporting such an audit.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me at (608) 266-7141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Dan Meyer  
State Representative  
34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

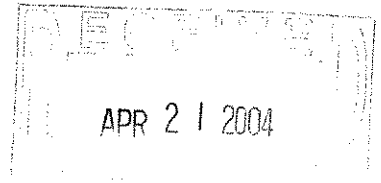


State Representative

**GREGG UNDERHEIM**

Chair: Assembly Committee on Health

Chair: Assembly Select Committee on State & Local Finance



Senator Carol Roessler  
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-Chairpersons, Joint Audit Committee  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53701

April 21, 2004

Dear Co-Chairpersons Roessler and Jeskewitz:

On April 13, 2004, the Assembly Committee on Health took executive action on Clearinghouse Rule 03-111, relating to fees for copies of health care records. At that meeting, the Committee approved two motions regarding the rule.

Under the first motion, the Committee requested the Department of Health and Family Services to modify the proposed rule. That motion also stated that if a Legislative Audit Bureau audit is conducted regarding the level of fees that may be charged to reflect an approximation of actual costs, the Department should consider the findings of the audit when modifying the proposed rule.

Under the second motion, the Assembly Committee on Health requested that the Joint Audit Committee direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct an audit of the costs to provide copies of health care records of health care providers and others who maintain those records. The audit should recommend an appropriate fee for copies of health care records that are an approximation of actual costs, based on the factors in s. 146.83 (3m) (a), Stats. The Committee also strongly urged the Legislative Audit Bureau to attempt to complete its audit within 90 days after action by your Committee.

Therefore, on behalf of the Assembly Committee on Health, I request that the Joint Audit Committee direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct an audit as described above. I hope that this can be done as quickly as possible so that a rule may be promulgated in this area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Representative Gregg Underheim, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Health

GU:kr

cc: Members of the Assembly Committee on Health  
Janice Mueller  
Helene Nelson

**Capitol:**  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8953  
(608) 266-2254  
(608) 282-3654 Fax

Toll-Free (888) 534-0054  
TDD: (800) 228-2115  
Rep.Underheim@legis.state.wi.us

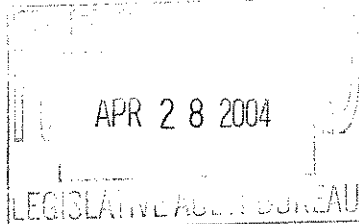
**District:**  
1652 Beech Street  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901  
(920) 233-1082

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE



**Carol Roessler**  
STATE SENATOR

April 23, 2004



Senator Carol Roessler  
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-Chairpersons, Joint Audit Committee  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Co-Chairpersons Roessler and Jeskewitz:

On April 8, 2004, the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care took executive action on Clearinghouse Rule 03-111, relating to fees for copies of health care records. The committee approved the following motion regarding the rule:

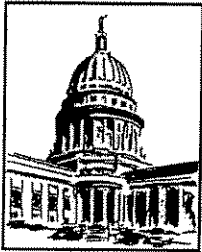
The Senate Committee requests that the Joint Audit Committee direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to determine what factors, including those in s. 146.83(3m)(a), Stats., should be considered in making an approximation of actual costs of providing copies of health care records of health care providers and others who maintain records for health care providers; and request information from health care providers and others who maintain health care records regarding the costs attached to these factors.

Therefore, on behalf of the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care, I request that the Joint Audit Committee direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to comply with the request as stated in the above motion. I hope that this can be done as quickly as possible so that a rule may be promulgated in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol".

CAROL ROESSLER  
State Senator  
18th Senate District



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

May 26, 2004

Representative Sheryl Albers  
3 North, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Representative Albers:

Thank you for your recent submission of three separate requests for audits by the Legislative Audit Bureau. In your letter of April 13, 2004, you request an audit of the extent to which the Department of Transportation contracts to external sources the engineering work for design and construction of highways/intersections. Given the Audit Bureau's recent work in the Department of Transportation for the audit of the Major Highway Program, we have chosen not to advance this audit request at this time. However, we have placed the request in pending status for possible reconsideration at a future date.

In your letter of March 29, 2004, which was forwarded for our consideration by State Auditor Janice Mueller, you request an audit of the methods by which preliminary breath test devices are approved and distributed to local law enforcement officials by the State. Given the Audit Bureau's existing workload demands, we have chosen not to advance this audit request at this time.

Finally, State Auditor Janice Mueller also forwarded your letter of February 5, 2004, in which you request an audit of the Community Development Block Grant—Public Facilities program in the Department of Commerce. Your request made specific inquiries about the City of Elroy and its experience in this program and also communicated your broader concern about the distribution of economic development funds across the State. At a public hearing held on February 11, 2004, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee unanimously approved an audit of the State's economic development programs, some of which are operated by the Department of Commerce. This comprehensive audit of the State's economic development programs will include an inventory of all programs and is expected to:

- identify all programs by type and funding source;
- identify the types of businesses that have received financial assistance;
- review information available on job creation or other data on economic expansion;
- analyze the geographic distribution of financial assistance throughout the State;
- review a sample of loans and grants to determine if statutory requirements for the programs were followed; and

SENATOR ROESSLER  
P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882  
(608) 266-5300 • Fax (608) 266-0423

REPRESENTATIVE JESKEWITZ  
P.O. Box 8952 • Madison, WI 53708-8952  
(608) 266-3796 • Fax (608) 282-3624

- review information available on economic development programs in other midwestern states.

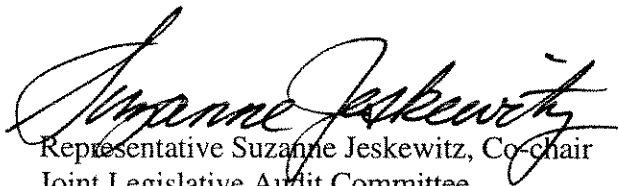
While we do not expect this audit to specifically address all of your concerns related to the City of Elroy and its experience in the Community Development Block Grant program, we do anticipate that an analysis of the geographic distribution of economic development funds throughout the State will be included in the audit report.

Thank you for your requests and please contact us should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

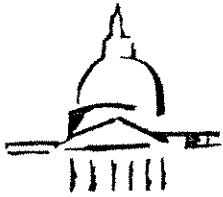


Senator Carol A. Roessler, Co-chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

cc: Janice Mueller  
State Auditor



**JOHN AINSWORTH**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 6<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN:  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

JUN 17 2004

June 16, 2004

Senator Carol Roessler, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 8 South – State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Representative Sue Jeskewitz, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 314 North – State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

In Re: Audit Request

Dear Co-Chair Roessler and Co-Chair Jeskewitz:

I would like to formally request the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to conduct a complete audit of all Department of Transportation holdings of excess land. Specifically, the review should include the following items:

1. Dates of acquisition – number of parcels acquired during specific time periods.
2. Recent (since last audit) trends in number of parcels held.
3. Estimated fiscal effect of holding property longer than required to complete sale.
4. Uniformity of sale procedure (or lack thereof) including regular re-appraisal, deviation from appraised price, etc.
5. Cost of time and effort spent by DOT handling its own sales and comparison to generally accepted percentage of sale paid to private real estate agent.

Your consideration of my request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Ainsworth, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Transportation

JA/cr





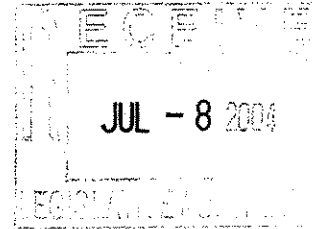
# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

June 17, 2004

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

*rec'd  
6-28  
hand-deliv.*

Senator Carol Roessler, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 8 South  
State Capitol



Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 314 North  
State Capitol

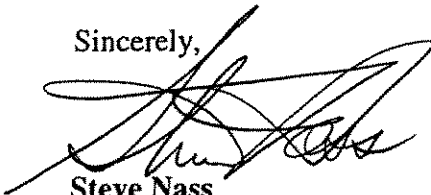
Dear Co-Chairs Roessler and Jeskewitz:


We are requesting legislative audits of the Secretary of State's Office and the State Treasurer's Office. This session the legislature considered a joint resolution that would eliminate the two offices from the Wisconsin Constitution. As the Legislature continues to discuss ways of making state government smaller and more efficient, it is necessary to determine if these two state constitutional offices still provide taxpayers efficient services for a reasonable cost.

These legislative audits will provide specific nonpartisan answers to the important questions surrounding the fiscal and management practices currently in use in both offices. The legislative audits will also help clarify if the services currently under the control of the Secretary of State and the State Treasurer can be absorbed by other state agencies.

We are hopeful that the Joint Audit Committee will look favorably on this request and work with the staff of the Legislative Audit Bureau to complete these audits for use in the next Legislature.

Sincerely,

  
Steve Nass  
State Representative

  
Scott Suder  
State Representative

**Tom Reynolds**  
State Senator

**Michael Huebsch**  
State Representative

**Rob Kreibich**  
State Representative

**Bob Ziegelbauer**  
State Representative

**Carol Owens**  
State Representative

**Scott Gunderson**  
State Representative

**Samantha Kerkman**  
State Representative

**J.A. Hines**  
State Representative

**Eugene Hahn**  
State Representative

**Jeffrey Wood**  
State Representative

**Thomas Lothian**  
State Representative

**Alan Lasee**  
State Senator



rec'd  
6-28  
hand deliv.

June 17, 2004

## WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 · MADISON, WI 53708

JUL - 8 2004

Senator Carol Roessler, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 8 South  
State Capitol

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 314 North  
State Capitol

Dear Co-Chairs Roessler and Jeskewitz:

We are requesting a fiscal and management audit of the Edvest Board and the Office of State Treasurer in administering the Edvest Program. It is important that the Legislature exercises its oversight responsibility and thoroughly reviews all aspects of the state office and the board responsible for directing the Wisconsin 529-college savings plan.

The nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau is the appropriate agency to review the fiscal and management practices involved with protecting the families that have entrusted their hard earned dollars to a state sponsored program. The Legislative Audit Bureau should review and report on the collection and use of all fees submitted to the state from these investing families. The audit could clarify many questions including if appropriate policies exist to limit the use of state fees collected from Edvest participants.

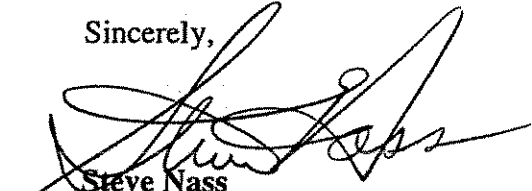
The fees being collected from these investing families has reportedly been high and generated a surplus of funds above the levels necessary for state administration of the Edvest program. The audit could provide families with an important answer to a serious question. Has the State of Wisconsin been assessing and collecting unnecessarily high administrative fees on the investments of these hardworking Wisconsin families? The review of management practices of the Edvest Board and the State Treasurer's Office will clarify if both entities could have acted sooner in lowering the administrative fees.

The Legislature and the public need to know how the millions of dollars assessed to the investing families have been used since the inception of the program. The audit can directly answer whether the state general fund has benefited from the administrative fees assessed to Wisconsin families with Edvest accounts.


We hope that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee can act promptly to authorize this audit. The findings contained in this audit are not only important to the Legislature, but in real terms

are more valuable to the families that have invested their money in the Wisconsin Edvest Program.

Sincerely,




**Steve Nass**  
State Representative



**Scott Suder**  
State Representative



**Tom Reynolds**  
State Senator



**Michael Huebsch**  
State Representative



**Bob Ziegelbauer**  
State Representative

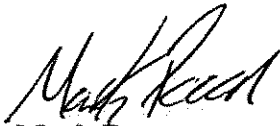


**Carol Owens**  
State Representative



**Scott Gunderson**  
State Representative

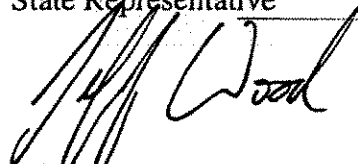
**J.A. Hines**  
State Representative




**Mark Pocan**  
State Representative



**Eugene Hahn**  
State Representative



**Jeffrey Wood**  
State Representative



**Thomas Lothian**  
State Representative

July 14, 2004

JUL 19 2004

# WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

Senator Carol Roessler and Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairs, Joint Committee on Audit  
State Capitol, interdepartmental mail



**SHELDON  
WASSERMAN**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Senator <sup>Carol</sup>Roessler and Representative <sup>Sue</sup>Jeskewitz:

I am writing to request an audit of the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) within the Department of Health and Family Services, with a particular focus on the Physician Office Visit Data (POVD) program.

BHI tracks, gathers and produces reports on various health statistics, vital records and other health care information relative to Wisconsin citizens and the state's providers of health care. As you will recall, six years ago the legislature passed a bill to expand Wisconsin's data collection efforts to include information on physician office visits. BHI was designated to implement POVD collection, which is funded by program revenue. And more recently via the 2003-2004 budget bill, a private entity, the Wisconsin Hospital Association, was charged with collecting and reporting information on hospital and ambulatory and surgery data.

It is my understanding that the POVD program has employed as many as 8 full-time people and has spent over \$5 million since its inception. According to the program's website, "following a data quality assessment and improvement process, BHI will create public use data files, standard reports, custom data files and reports, and Web-based information products similar to those it produces from hospital inpatient discharge data and ambulatory surgery data. The first public release of data is projected to occur sometime in 2003." Yet to date, no data has been released.

I feel very strongly that an audit is warranted at this time. There are several prudent questions that need to be answered:

- 1.) How is the PR funding being spent and why are so many FTEs required to run the program? Has BHI funded other programs with POVD money and how did it spend money from the hospital data program? Is/was this consistent with Chapter 153.60(1), which requires all revenue to be used solely for Chapter 153 data collection programs?
- 2.) Have there been any questions or changes relating to Board on Health Care Information (BHCI) votes on the bureau's budget? Was there any review by DHFS budget staff of the budget prior to its submission to the board? Did DHFS ever ask for new technology that was rejected by BHCI? Were new positions requested and subsequently turned down by BHCI?

(continued next page)

COPIES TO:

ROUTE TO:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DB        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JK | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KW        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JT        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JZ        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JG | <input type="checkbox"/> DKB                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BAM       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BJ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>AO</u> |

RETURN TO: \_\_\_\_\_

DELIVERED: #04-13

**MADISON:**

POST OFFICE BOX 8953  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53708  
(608) 266-7671

TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1-888-534-0022  
FAX: (608) 266-7038

E-MAIL: [rep.wasserman@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:rep.wasserman@legis.state.wi.us)  
WEB PAGE: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm22/news/>

**HOME:**

3487 NORTH LAKE DRIVE  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53211  
(414) 964-0663



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Rep. Wasserman, page two  
July 14, 2004

- 3.) It is interesting to note that the Wisconsin Hospital Association's similar data collection effort is up and running after less than a year, with fewer employees. What other private sector initiatives and additional government regulations have come along that are in effect duplicating what BHI does?
- 4.) What is the true cost to the health care providers that are required to submit data under the POVD program, both in infrastructure development (to transmit the data) and program fees? What efforts has BHI made to determine the needs of data consumers and maximize sales so as to minimize the assessment burden on providers?
- 5.) When the data is finally released, how can it be used given the privacy statutes? What specific oversight is in place to guarantee patient confidentiality and what is the legal basis for this? How does BHI ensure that data it releases is not re-released or is otherwise used inappropriately? How has the POVD program acknowledged the impact of HIPAA privacy regulations on its original goals?
- 6.) Advocates have consistently argued they want to be able to measure quality from POV data. How have the current methodology and expenses achieved those goals? What is the validity of the collected data (not just technical reliability)? What questions is the program attempting to answer for consumers? How are the data translated into useful information in order to help physicians improve? If there are no specific questions to be answered, how is an appropriate risk adjustment method selected?
- 7.) How were hospital data requests processed? What process was used to determine if the request could be legally accommodated? How many requests have been received? How many were denied? Why were they denied?
- 8.) How was the cost for fulfilling these data requests determined? Is there an invoicing system that can document the amount of staff time involved, the details of each data request, and the total charge for each? Has any data been given away?

In my opinion the POVD program has clearly not lived up to expectations. The questions posed above should have been answered long ago, and must be answered before the Legislature entertains any new government-run health care data programs. I believe the POVD program should be discontinued and any unused PR funds put into the general fund. At the very least it and BHI should be subjected to an independent audit.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Sheldon A. Wasserman, M.D.  
State Representative  
22<sup>nd</sup> District

SW.so



State of Wisconsin \ LEGISLATIVE AUDIT BUREAU

JANICE MUELLER  
STATE AUDITOR

22 E. MIFFLIN ST., STE. 500  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703  
(608) 266-2818  
FAX (608) 267-0410  
Leg.Audit.Info@legis.state.wi.us

August 4, 2004

Representative Steven Foti  
215 West, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Representative Foti:

Several months ago, you requested that we conduct a limited-scope review of the Department of Transportation's enforcement of gross vehicle weight registration requirements for light trucks. Light trucks are defined generally as those with a gross vehicle weight of less than 8,000 pounds. In 2003, approximately 780,000 light trucks were registered for use in Wisconsin.

As shown in Table 1, the registration fee for a truck is based on its gross weight. As the vehicle weight increases, so does the registration fee. Vehicles with a gross weight of 4,500 pounds or less pay a fee of \$48.50, while vehicles with gross weight of more than 4,500 but less than 6,000 pounds pay a fee of \$61.50. Consequently, registration of trucks at the correct gross weight is important to ensuring that the appropriate amount of registration fee revenue is collected.

Table 1

**Truck Registration Fee Schedule**

Maximum Gross Weight (in pounds)	Annual Registration Fee
4,500	\$ 48.50
6,000	61.50
8,000	77.50
10,000	119.50
12,000	161.00
16,000	\$218.00

Determining the correct gross weight of a vehicle is complicated by differing definitions of how to calculate gross weight. Truck manufacturers define gross vehicle weight as the sum of the

vehicle's empty weight and its rated carrying capacity. For example, a truck weighing 5,500 pounds empty and designed to carry up to 1,600 pounds would have a gross vehicle weight of 7,100 pounds. The manufacturer's determination of gross vehicle weight is identified within the vehicle identification number attached to the vehicle.

State statutes contain two different definitions of gross vehicle weight. For example, s. 340.01 (19r) Wis. Stats., which provides definitions for words and phrases associated with motor vehicle regulation, defines a gross vehicle weight rating in the way truck manufacturers do: the weight of the vehicle plus its rated payload. In contrast, s. 341.25(1)(c) Wis. Stats., which establishes the provisions relating to registration fees, states that the maximum gross vehicle weight shall be determined by summing the weight of the vehicle and the maximum load in pounds the registrant proposes to carry on the vehicle. This second definition is used on the vehicle registration form. Consequently, the registrant selects a weight at which to register the vehicle rather than using the manufacturer's determination of the gross vehicle weight.

In order to assess the extent to which trucks were registered at a weight different than that determined by the manufacturer, we reviewed a sample of truck registrations. We examined the registration of all new General Motors (GM) 1500 and 2500 series trucks registered in calendar years 2001 and 2002. As shown in Table 2, if the trucks had been registered according to the manufacturer's established gross vehicle weight, 15,810 of the trucks would have been in the under 8,000 pound category, and the rest in the under 10,000 pounds category. However, as shown in Table 2, the truck owners typically selected lower weight categories to register their trucks.

Table 2

**Comparison of Truck Weight and Registrations Paid**  
1500 and 2500 series GM Pickup Trucks, 2001 and 2002

Gross Weight Registration Category	Trucks by Manufacturer's Weight Rating	Paid Registrations
Under 4,500	0	1,036
Under 6,000	0	14,869
Under 8,000	15,810	6,882
Under 10,000	7,903	879
Under 12,000	0	45
Under 16,000	0	1
Under 20,000	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,713</b>	<b>23,713</b>



As shown in Table 3, 88.8 percent of the vehicles in our sample were registered at a gross vehicle weight below that identified by the manufacturer, while 11.2 percent registered their trucks at a weight equal to or greater than the manufacturer's determination.

---

Table 3

**Registration of New GM Trucks**  
1500 and 2500 series, 2001 and 2002

Registered Weight	Vehicles	Percent of Total
Below Manufacturer's Gross Weight	21,052	88.8%
At Manufacturer's Gross Weight	2,609	11.0
Above Manufacturer's Gross Weight	52	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,713</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

---

Actual fees collected for the trucks in our sample were \$784,695 in 2001 and \$826,163 in 2002. If all of the trucks in our sample had been registered at the weight specified by the manufacturer, registration fee revenue would have increased \$265,147 in 2001 and \$293,715 in 2002, as indicated in Table 4. As noted, our sample consisted of 23,713 light trucks, approximately 3 percent of the 780,000 light trucks registered in 2003.

Table 4

**Estimated Additional Revenue from Requiring  
Light Truck Registration at Manufacturer's Weight Rating**  
1500 and 2500 series GM Pickup Trucks, 2001 and 2002

Truck Model	2001		2002	
	Number of Vehicles	Estimated Additional Revenue	Number of Vehicles	Estimated Additional Revenue
1500 Series	8,316	\$135,281	8,283	\$141,879
2500 Series	3,293	129,866	3,821	151,836
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,609</b>	<b>\$265,147</b>	<b>12,104</b>	<b>\$293,715</b>

The Wisconsin State Patrol has authority to enforce registration weight limitations on all vehicles. However, in practice the focus of the State's size-weight enforcement program is on trucks over 8,000 pounds. The State Patrol enforces the program at 13 safety and weight enforcement facilities located throughout Wisconsin. When these facilities are open, any truck whose weight, including actual payload, exceeds 8,000 pounds must stop to be weighed. However, there is no specific enforcement policy for lighter trucks.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Janice Mueller  
State Auditor

JM/DB/bm

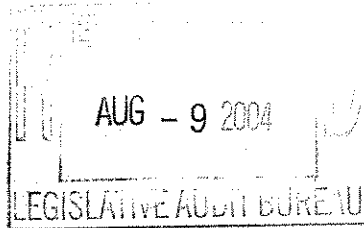
cc: ✓ Senator Carol A. Roessler  
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

August 9, 2004



Senator Carol Roessler, Chair  
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI

Dear Joint Legislative Audit Committee Co-Chairpersons:

We are respectfully requesting that an audit be conducted of the Department of Corrections, specifically on the prescription drugs that are being prescribed to Wisconsin prisoners who are currently incarcerated within our prison system.

Recent reports have been made that an inmate who is serving a 128 year prison sentence was prescribed hormone therapy by prison doctors. As a result, this prisoner now wishes to receive a sex change operation and has filed a lawsuit against the state to pay for it.

Although we agree that prisoners should be given life-saving care, this type of prescription seems to be unnecessary and has left the Department of Corrections vulnerable to a lawsuit. It certainly makes us wonder what other type of prescription drugs are being dolled out at taxpayers' expense.

Therefore, we are asking you both as Co-chairpersons of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to order a full audit be done of the Department of Corrections prescription drug program. We feel an audit would be worthwhile in order to further investigate what really is occurring within our prison system.

Thank you in advance to your consideration to our request. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss our request further, please do not hesitate to contact us. We welcome the opportunity to work with you further on this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch  
State Senator  
14<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Scott Suder  
State Representative  
69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

For Immediate Release  
August 9, 2004

Contact: Senator Bob Welch 608/266-0751  
Representative Scott Suder 608/267-0280

## **Convicted criminal wants free sex change operation** **Suder/Welch call state prison policy outrageous; ask for Legislative Audit**

Madison - A slap in the face to taxpayers is what two Wisconsin legislators are calling a lawsuit to force the state to underwrite a sex change operation for a prison inmate.

A prisoner at the Wisconsin Resource Center near Oshkosh was given hormone therapy and is now suing the state for a taxpayer-financed sex change surgery. State Senator Bob Welch (R-Redgranite) and Representative Scott Suder (R-Abbotsford) called the situation a shocking abuse of tax dollars.

"Prisons should not be spas where criminals get to have taxpayers fund any outlandish medical procedure they might dream up," said Suder. "When and if prisoners are released, they may choose to pursue whatever medical procedures they desire, at their own expense."

In 1999, Scott Konitzer, serving 128 years in prison for armed robbery, was given hormone therapy by prison doctors, after he was diagnosed with "gender identity disorder" a condition in which people claim to feel "uncomfortable" with their biological sex.

"Should the state of Wisconsin be in the business of making male prisoners into females, or females into males? No. Not with hormones, not with surgery. Not under any circumstances," said Welch. "And not with tax dollars."

The legislators are calling for a halt in the use of hormone treatment to cause prisoners to develop alternate sex characteristics, as well as an audit of state prison pharmaceuticals use and protocol to determine how widespread such dubious practices are within the corrections system. Wisconsin Department of Corrections policy allows the dispensation of hormones to an inmate diagnosed with gender identity disorder, but does not allow sexual reassignment surgery.

"Certainly we should provide prison inmates with life-saving care," said Suder. "But taxpayers should not have to pay for experimental games with an inmate's biologically determined sex. It looks like Corrections set themselves up for a lawsuit by paying for this ridiculous hormone treatment in the first place."

There is considerable disagreement in the medical community as to whether it is safe or appropriate for doctors to artificially induce a person to exhibit physical traits of the opposite sex using hormones. Most private health insurance will not pay for such radical and potentially dangerous medical treatment, and the lawmakers say this is a wildly inappropriate use of tax dollars.

"This situation makes a mockery of prudent use of tax dollars," said Welch. "Working families across Wisconsin are asking for a little tax relief, and then they learn their hard-earned dollars go to fund inappropriate hormone treatment for a convicted criminal. It's outrageous."

Lawmakers say it's vital that Wisconsin prisons set reasonable limits on what kind of taxpayer funded medical procedures are performed in the corrections system, to protect both taxpayers and inmates. The case is expected to have impact outside Wisconsin, as other inmates in search of sex-change surgery watch the outcome.

###



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE  
**Joint Audit Committee**

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Carol Owens  
315 North, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Owens:

We received your two requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

*Joint Audit Committee*

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Scott Gunderson  
7 West, P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Gunderson:

We received your two requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

*Joint Audit Committee*

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative J. A. Hines  
10 West, P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Hines:

We received your two requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Mark Pocan  
322 West, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Pocan:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

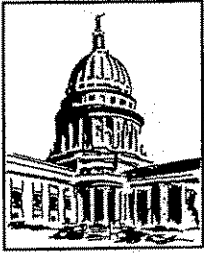
Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

*Joint Audit Committee*

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Senator Alan Lasee  
220 South, P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Alan Lasee:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

## Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Samantha Kerkman  
109 West, P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kerkman:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

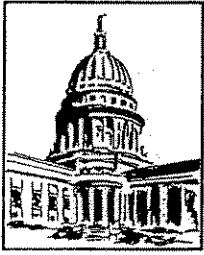
Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Rob Kreibich  
107 West, P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Thomas Lothian  
306 North, P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Lothian:

We received your two requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Jeffrey Wood  
7 North, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Wood:

We received your two requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Eugene Hahn  
15 West, P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Hahn:

We received your two requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

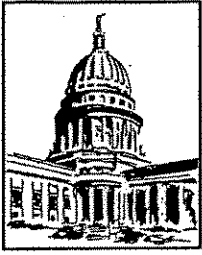
Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

*Joint Audit Committee*

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Bob Ziegelbauer  
207 North, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Ziegelbauer:

We received your two requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Michael Huebsch  
304 East, P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Huebsch: *Mike*

We received your two requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Senator Tom Reynolds  
306 South, P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Reynolds:

We received your two requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

## Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

August 12, 2004

Representative Scott Suder  
21 North, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Suder:

We received your two requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee