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July 9, 2003

Senator Ronald W. Brown
104 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Brown *RM*

As we have discussed previously, the four bills I have authored which are designed to give Wisconsin towns more authority in the future development of town land, including annexation, have been referred to your committee.

Across the state, a third of the people living and working in Wisconsin live in towns and have little to say in matters of urban growth. My bills ensure they are treated more equitably in land use issues. Your consideration in scheduling these bills (Senate Bills 87, 88, 89 and 110) for public hearings in the very near future would be appreciated. Please let me know if you have a tentative time-schedule for these bills.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

ALAN J. LASEE
SENATE PRESIDENT
1ST Senate District

cc: Rick Stadelman



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To: Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs and Government Reform

From: Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Date: October 15, 2003

Re: **Opposition to SB 89, Requiring Referendum in a Town Before an Annexation Can Take Place**

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities strongly opposes SB 89, which prohibits an annexation from taking effect unless it is approved in a referendum of all of the town electors in the town from which the territory is to be annexed. This legislation places a severe limitation on municipal annexation powers and could ultimately result in freezing most municipal borders statewide.

The owners and/or electors of town territory that petition for annexation because they seek municipal water, sewer and other urban services would be at the mercy of the town electors.

The most common method of annexation, which is direct annexation initiated by electors and property owners under sec. 66.0217, Stats., already provides for the possibility of a referendum. Under this method, town territory contiguous to a city or village may be annexed when a petition of electors and property owners is filed with the city or village requesting that the described territory in which they reside or own property be annexed. The annexation becomes effective only after a city's or village's governing body enacts an annexation ordinance by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the body. If a sufficient number of electors residing within the territory to be annexed petition for a referendum on the annexation within the statutory time limits, a referendum will be held in the area proposed for annexation. A majority vote against annexation nullifies the annexation or halts the annexation process from proceeding. A majority vote in favor of annexation validates the annexation or allows the annexation process to proceed.

This bill makes a referendum of the entire town a mandatory step in all annexations.

We urge you to reject this effort to limit municipal annexation powers. Please oppose SB 89. Thanks for considering our comments on this anti-annexation legislation.

SA 87 8889

Senator Brown Constituent Form

Name: David Steber Date Called: _____

Address: 21157 County Rd X

City, State, Zip: Cadott 54727

Phone Number: Home: _____ Work: _____

Called Regarding: Town of Lafayette chair

Support SB 87, 88, 89

Logged In to Forward: _____

Routed to: _____

Case Closed: _____

Senator Brown Constituent Form

Name: Roy Lightfield Lightfield **Date Called:** 10/15/03

Address: W1706 Potter Rd

City, State, Zip: Burlington

Phone Number: **Home:** **Work:**

Called Regarding:

Spring Prairie
Town super (Walworth Co.)

Support SB 87-89

Logged In to Forward:

Routed to:

Case Closed:

Senator Brown Constituent Form

Name: John Robertson

Date Called: 10/15/03

Address: 1012 Doty St.

City, State, Zip: E.C. ~~IN~~ 54701

Phone Number: Home: 715 834 8666 Work:

Called Regarding:

Support
SB 89

Would like to know how hearing went & how
RB stands

Logged In to Forward:

Routed to:

Case Closed:

SENATE BILL 89

(LRB 1587)

State and Local Fiscal Estimates

Amendment LRB a0259/1

Requires a referendum in a town before annexation of town territory may take effect.

Currently, town territory may be annexed by:

- direct annexation, under which a petition for annexation that was signed by the required number of electors and landowners is filed with the city or village.
- annexation by referendum, under which a petition for referendum that was signed by the required number of electors and landowners is filed with the city or village clerk and a referendum of the electors residing in the area proposed for annexation is held and passes.
- annexation by court order and referendum, under which the governing body of a city or village adopts a resolution declaring its intention to apply to the circuit court for an order for an annexation referendum.

This bill gives the town electors a vote in the annexation.

Encourages landowner to work with the town.

This bill + SB87 place restrictions on a city's or village's ability to annex town territory, and the amendments add a further restriction by making the annexations subject to boundary agreements.