

WISCONSIN STATE  
LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

**2005-06**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on  
Insurance  
(AC-In)**

File Naming Example:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt01a
- 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt01b
- 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt02

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ \*\*

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ \*\*

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ \*\*

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INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE  
CLERK FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ \*\*

Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ \*\*

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

➤ **05hr\_ab0841\_AC-In\_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ \*\*

**Wisconsin  
Manufacturers  
& Commerce**

Wisconsin Manufacturers'  
Association • 1911

Wisconsin Council  
of Safety • 1923

Wisconsin State Chamber  
of Commerce • 1929

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WMC Service Corp.

To: Interested Legislators  
From: R.J. Pirlot, Director of Legislative Relations  
Date: December 12, 2005  
Subject: **Assembly Bill 841, Governor's Task Force on Energy  
Efficiency and Renewables**

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### **Protect Integrity of Public Benefits Fund**

**Current Law:** Customers pay a 3% fee on their electric bills in order to help pay for low-income energy assistance and energy conservation programs. Since 2003, over \$100 million in ratepayer dollars have been diverted from the energy conservation and efficiency portion of the Public Benefits Fund to the General Fund.

**Under AB 841:** Attempt to protect the Public Benefits Fund from future raids.

**WMC Position:** Continue to work with other stakeholders to protect fund integrity.

### **Retain Cap on Electric Ratepayer Assessments**

**Current Law:** Public Benefits fees are capped at "3% of the total of every other charge for which the customer is billed for that period or \$750 per month, whichever is less." Cap sunsets in 2008.

**Under AB 841:** Eliminate cap on electric ratepayer assessments. Ratepayers would pay a 3% Public Benefits fee on their electric bills, no cap.

**WMC Position:** Retain the existing cap of \$750 per month on electric ratepayer assessments. Remove 2008 sunset.

### **Allow Consumers to Seek Permissible Delays in Achieving Renewable Energy Standards**

**Current Law:** Renewable energy percentage for state at least 2.2% by 2011.

**Under AB 841:** Renewable energy percentage for state at least 10% by 2015.

Utilities may petition to delay achieving a standard if compliance would undermine reliability of the electric system, would hurt ratepayers, is difficult to meet due to siting/approval delays, or is difficult to meet due to transmission constraints.

**WMC Position:** Allow customer representatives to similarly request that the commission consider granting a delay for the same conditions.

### **Provide Clear Customer Bill Disclosures**

**Current Law:** Under DOA rules, Public Benefits fees appear as "non-taxable fixed charges" a name which, for many customers, does not provide meaningful guidance regarding what this charge is.

**Under AB 841:** Under the draft, the utility must identify on a customer's bill the Public Benefits amounts the customer is paying; the PSC would specify how the amount is identified.

**WMC Position:** Statutorily require the amount be identified as the "Public Benefits amount."

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