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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

**2005-06**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Public Health  
(AC-PH)**

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- *Committee Reports ... CR*
- *Executive Sessions ... ES*
- *Public Hearings ... PH*
- *Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP*

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- *Appointments ... Appt*
- *Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule*
- *Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions*  
(ab = Assembly Bill)                      (ar = Assembly Resolution)                      (ajr = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(sb = Senate Bill)                      (sr = Senate Resolution)                      (sfr = Senate Joint Resolution)
- *Miscellaneous ... Misc*





# FRED A. RISSER

Wisconsin State Senator



May 18, 2005

Representative J.A. Hines, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Public Health  
10 West, State Capitol  
Hand Delivered

Dear Representative <sup>Doc</sup> ~~Hines~~,

Thank you for scheduling a public hearing on Assembly Bill 310, relating to smoking in the vicinity of the State Capitol. I am sorry that I am unable to attend and testify in person.


Under current law, smoking is prohibited in the immediate vicinity of the state capitol building. In the statutes, immediate vicinity is defined as within "one fathom" of the building. By definition "one fathom" is six feet. This term is technically used to define marine depths and is not part of the average person's everyday vocabulary. I believe this term makes current law unclear and should be removed from the statutes.

Assembly Bill 310 would delete the current prohibition from smoking within one fathom of the Capitol Building and replace it with a more commonly understood measurement—25 feet. Generally, this would prohibit smoking outside of the capitol building up to the balustrade at the edge of the terrace immediately surrounding the building. This marks a clear boundary within which there is no smoking allowed.

This clarification in law will allow ground floor office occupants to open windows without breathing in second hand smoke, permit people to enter and exit the building without passing through a toxic cloud, and provide a clearer smoke free zone. I would urge the committee to recommend passage of Assembly Bill 310 and forward it to the full body for consideration.

Thank you again for your consideration of Assembly Bill 310. If you should have any further questions about this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Most sincerely,

  
FRED A. RISSER  
State Senator

FAR:skb  
CC: Members, Assembly Committee on Public Health