

☞ **07hr\_SC-CUR\_Appt\_Azar\_pt01**



Details: Lauren Azar

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

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

**2007-08**

(session year)

**Senate**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Commerce, Utilities and Rail  
(SC-CUR)**

**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

# Vote Record

## Committee on Commerce, Utilities and ██████

Date: 4/18/07

Moved by: Hansen

Seconded by: Cowles

AB \_\_\_\_\_ SB \_\_\_\_\_

Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_

AJR \_\_\_\_\_ SJR \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Lauren Azar

AR \_\_\_\_\_ SR \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for:

- |                                       |                                    |                                       |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passage      | <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption  | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation | <input type="checkbox"/> Concurrence    | <input type="checkbox"/> Indefinite Postponement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Tabling      | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonconcurrency |  |

Committee Member

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<b>Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Roger Breske</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Robert Wirch</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator David Hansen</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Robert Cowles</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Sheila Harsdorf</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Neal Kedzie</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

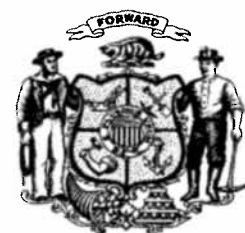
**Totals:**      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





STATE OF WISCONSIN  
**ETHICS BOARD**

James R. Morgan  
Chairman  
Paul M. Holzem  
Dorothy C. Johnson  
Richard Warch

On the capitol square at:  
44 EAST MIFFLIN STREET, STE 601  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703-2800  
phone: 608/266-8123  
fax: 608/264-9319  
ethics@ethics.state.wi.us  
<http://ethics.state.wi.us>

Roth Judd  
Director

3/9/2007

Senate Committee Members:

The attached Statement of Economic Interests is provided with regard to the individual's nomination to a State Public Office by Governor Jim Doyle.

Sincerely,  
STATE OF WISCONSIN ETHICS BOARD

Nominee: **Azar, Lauren**  
Nomination Date: 3/1/2007



**2. BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.** List businesses, farms, rental, commercial, and income-producing real estate; and business activities in which you or your family had at least a 10% or greater interest.

**a) Enterprise(s) operating under a business or trade name, list here.**

Name of business	Municipality or Town	County	State	Describe nature of business
None				

**b) Enterprise(s) NOT operating under a business or trade name, list here.**

Street address or fire number	Municipality or Town	County	State	Describe nature of business
See attached Sheet				

**3. COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS, CLIENTS, AND TENANTS.** For each unincorporated business, subchapter S corporation, service corporation (SC), limited liability company (LLC), partnership, or income-producing real estate reported in Item 2, list businesses, organizations, and lobbyists that paid the enterprise \$1,000 or more in calendar year 2006.

Check if the organization authorized you to represent it in its dealings with others as an attorney-at-law, agent, spokesperson, or representative.

Businesses, organizations, lobbyists that were customers, clients, or tenants	City	State	*✓*
None			

**4. BUSINESS PARTNERS.** For each enterprise reported under Item 2, list its co-owners, partners, officers, and directors (other than yourself), unless the information is already registered with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions.

Business	Partners, or officers and directors	City	State
None			

**5. NON-COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE.** List the specific location of WISCONSIN REAL ESTATE in which you or your family had an interest (except your principal residence and real estate whose location you listed in item 2).

LOCATION OF PROPERTY			NATURE OF INTEREST (own, lease, option, easement, land contract)
Street address or fire number	Municipality or Town	County	
None			

**6. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS.** List organizations of which you or a family member was an officer or director (unless listed in Item #2.)

Business or organization	City	State	Position
None			

**7. AGENT, REPRESENTATIVE OR SPOKESPERSON.** List each organization that authorized you or a family member to represent it in its dealings with others as an attorney-at-law, agent, spokesperson, or representative (unless listed in item 2, 3, or 6.)

Business or organization	City	State

7. AGENT, REPRESENTATIVE OR SPOKESPERSON. List each organization that authorized you or a family member to represent it in its dealings with others as an attorney-at-law, agent, spokesperson, or representative (unless listed in item 2, 3, or 6.)

Business or organization	City	State
See attached list		

8. CREDITORS. List creditors to which you or your family owed \$5,000 or more.

Creditor	City	State	one	
			\$50,000 or less	More than \$50,000
See attached sheet				

**Part B For calendar year 2006**

9. EMPLOYERS. List your and your family's EMPLOYERS (\$1,000 or more of income) in 2006.

Name of employer (If State of Wisconsin, identify agency or institution)	City	State	Nature of employer's business
Michael Best & Friedrich	Madison	WI	Law Firm
US House of Representatives	Washington, DC		Congress

10. ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME. List other sources from which you or your family received income of \$1,000 or more in 2006.

Source of income	City	State
See attached sheet		


11. ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFTS. List individuals and organizations that provided you with entertainment or gifts (more than \$50) in 2006.

Name of provider	City	State
See Attached Sheet.		

12. HONORARIA AND EXPENSES. List, for 2006, sources of honoraria and payment of expenses related to your state government duties (more than \$50) not previously reported to the Ethics Board.

Payer	Approximate value of expenses	Amount of honorarium	Circumstances of receipt
None.			

I certify that the information contained in this Statement of Economic Interests is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. In the event this Statement of Economic Interests is filed prior my nomination or appointment, I certify that I will amend it within ten days of my nomination or appointment date if amendment is necessary to bring it into conformity with the true statement of my economic interests as of the date of my nomination or appointment. If any part has been left blank, I have done so intentionally because there is nothing to report.


2/27/07
Daytime phone # 608-283-2254  
 Signature of person filing Date E-mail address llazar@michaelbest.com

The information sought in this form is required by §§19.43 and 19.44, Wisconsin Statutes. Failure to file a completed form may result in a forfeiture of up to \$500. Statements of Economic Interests are open for public inspection. The Ethics Board will notify you of the identity of any person who examines your Statement. In accordance with §15.04(1)(m), Wisconsin Statutes, the Ethics Board states that no personally identifiable information is likely to be used for purposes other than those for which it is collected.

**LAUREN AZAR  
STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST**

Note: Though we are unable to legally marry, I consider Tammy Baldwin my "spouse" and will answer all questions assuming she qualifies as my "spouse."

**I. INVESTMENTS**  
**b) Other Investments**

Note: the mutual funds listed may be equity or bond funds.

Name of Security	Stock Options Futures	Bond	Limited Partnership	WI Gov't Security	Mutual or Money Market Fund	\$5,000 to \$50,000	More than \$50,000
<b>LAUREN AZAR ACCOUNTS</b>							
Vanguard Prime Money Market Fund -- Ownership is 50%					X	X	
VB Partners - Wicab			X				
Vanguard Prime Money Market Fund					X	X	
IRA - Vanguard Star Fund					X	X	X
401K - MBF Moderate Growth					X	X	
401 K - Dodge and Cox Stock Fund					X	X	
401 K - Nicholas Fund					X	X	
401 K - Longleaf Mid Cap Value					X	X	
401 K - American Funds					X	X	
401 K - First Amer Midcap C Equity					X	X	
401 K - American Beacon Sm. Cap					X	X	
401 K - Nicholas Limited Edition					X	X	
401 K - Associated Foreign Equity					X	X	
401 K - Marshall International Stock					X	X	X



Azar - Information Current as of February 21, 2007

TAMMY BALDWIN ACCOUNTS									
Blind Trust	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	X
First American Equity Income Fund								X	
First American Equity Index Fund								X	
First American Mid Cap Growth Opp Fund								X	
First American Short Term Bond Fund								X	
First American Intermediate Bond Fund								X	
First American Prime Obligation Fund								X	
Federal Retirement Account								X	
Federal Thrift Account								X	
JOINT ACCOUNTS - LAUREN AZAR AND TAMMY BALDWIN									
Vanguard Prime Money Market Fund								X	

**2. BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

(b) Enterprises NOT operating under a business or trade name, list

Name of Business	Municipality or Town	County	State	Describe Nature of Business
705/707 S. Dickinson Street	Madison	Dane	WI	Rental Property - Duplex Ownership = 50%
248 Hilt Street	Brevard	Transylvania	NC	Rental Property Ownership = 50%
805 Spaight Street w/ Tammy Baldwin	Madison	Dane	WI	Rental Property

7. AGENT REPRESENTATIVE or SPOKESPERSON

Business Organization	City	State
American Transmission Company LLC	Waukesha	WI
Animart, Inc.	Beaver Dam	WI
Beazer East, Inc.	Pittsburgh	PA
Blanchardville Cooperative Oil	Blanchardville	WI
Cape Holdings, Inc.	Chicago	IL
Cherokee Park, Inc.	Madison	WI
Cooper Industries, Inc.	Houston	TX
Dairy Business Association	Oneida	WI
Executive Management, Inc.	Madison	WI
FiveStar Quality Care, Inc.	S. Windsor	CT
Flint Hills Resources, LP	St. Paul	MN
Fraser Papers, Inc.	Toronto, Ontario	Canada
Great Northern Corporation	Appleton	WI
Impact 7, Inc.	Almena	WI
Institutional Project Management	Chicago	IL
Joe Daniels Construction	Madison	WI
Manitowoc-Two Rivers YMCA	Manitowoc	WI
Milk Specialties Company	Dundee	IL
Naterra Land	Spooner	WI
NewPort Shores	Port Washington	WI
NOR-LAKE, Inc.	Hudson	WI
Pierce Hardy Limited Partnership	Eighty Four	PA
Plum Creek Timber Company	Seattle	WA
SASM of America, Inc.	Madison	WI
Sensient Flavors, Inc.	Milwaukee	WI
Spectrum Brands, Inc.	Madison	WI

Azar - Information Current as of February 21, 2007

St. Joseph's Community Hospital	West Bend	WI
Stearns Packaging Corporation	Madison	WI
Stonic Energy, LLC	Tomah	WI
TACC, Inc	Antigo	WI
Xcel Energy Services, Inc.	Minneapolis	MN

**8. CREDITORS**

Creditor	City	State	\$50,000 or less	More than \$50,000
GMAC Mortgage w/ Tammy Baldwin	Waterloo	IA		X
GMAC Mortgage w/ Tammy Baldwin	Waterloo	IA		X
GMAC Mortgage Azar ownership interest = 50%	Waterloo	IA		X
Citi Mortgage w/ Tammy Baldwin	Washington	DC		X
Harris Bank w/ Tammy Baldwin	Chicago	IL	X	

**10. ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME**

Source of Income	City	State
Sale of Stock w/ Tammy Baldwin - Planetout	Berwyn	PA
Sale of Stock - KLA Tencor Corp.	Malvern	PA

**11. ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFTS**

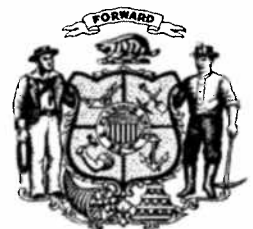
Name of Provider	City	State
RB Publishing for sporting event	Madison	WI
Michael Best & Friedrich for various entertainment and sporting events	Madison	WI

Azar - Information Current as of February 21, 2007

American Israel Education Fund for Congressional Trip	Washington	DC
United States Government for Congressional Trip	Washington	DC



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





1425 Corporate Center Drive  
Sun Prairie WI 53590 - 9109

608 834 4500  
Fax 608 837 0274  
www.wppisys.org

March 21, 2007

Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Utilities & Rail  
Room 313 South -- State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Plale:

I am writing to express Wisconsin Public Power's support for the nomination of Lauren Azar to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC). I am hopeful your committee will promptly confirm her for this appointment.

Wisconsin Public Power Inc. (WPPI) is a regional power company serving 48 customer-owned electric utilities -- including 41 Wisconsin communities -- that provide electricity to more than 185,000 homes and businesses in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Iowa. As a not-for-profit company our focus is on securing and maintaining a diverse and reliable power supply to meet the long-term needs of our members and maintain the economic vitality of our municipal members. As such, the PSC is critically important to WPPI with respect to its role in siting transmission and generation facilities, overseeing the regional market, and implementing energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable programs within the state. WPPI is confident Ms. Azar's strong legal, environmental, utility, and policy background will be advantageous to the PSC in fulfilling its responsibilities in these areas.

As you know, the State of Wisconsin faces a challenging time of increasing rates reflecting greater investment in infrastructure, increasing fuel costs, and more stringent environmental requirements. The expertise Ms. Azar offers should be helpful in navigating these challenges and protecting consumer interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

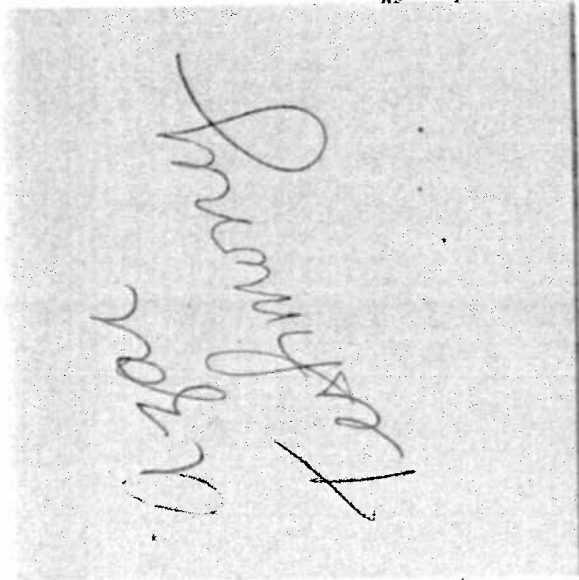
Sincerely,

Roy Thilly  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Daniel R. Ebert



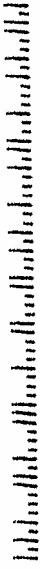
WISCONSIN PUBLIC POWER INC  
1425 Corporate Center Drive  
Sun Prairie WI 53590 - 9109



Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Utilities & Rail  
Room 313 South -- State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

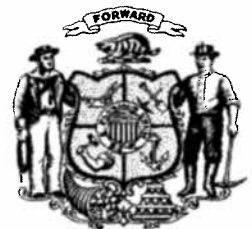


53707+7882





# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**Stephen Hiniker  
118 Bascom Place  
Madison, WI 53726**

March 26, 2007

Senator Jeff Plale  
Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail  
Room 313 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Plale,

I would like to submit testimony in support of Lauren Azar's appointment to the Public Service Commission.

As a note of personal background, I worked as Executive Director of the Citizens' Utility Board from 1998 to 2004. In that role, I worked on issues before the PSC that provided me with considerable insight as to how the Commissions worked, how individual commissioners approached their work and how it affected ratepayers.

Lauren Azar is the first nominee to the Commission in my memory to actually have relevant work experience in the complex arena of utility issues. Lauren has a well deserved reputation as a true expert on electric utility issues, having represented consumer interests and supplier interests. She also has a well deserved reputation for fairness and honesty. Her candidacy is welcome break from the practice of appointing commissioners based on political connections rather than expertise.

It is noteworthy that Lauren is giving up her position as a successful utility lawyer to go to the Commission. This stands in stark contrast to others who have gone the opposite direction. It is not a matter of conjecture, but rather it is a matter of demonstrable fact that most of the appointments going back to the 1980's were made on the basis of political loyalty rather than any relevant experience or even knowledge of utility regulation. Those same commissioners presided over a period of unparalleled rate increases and decreases in electric reliability. Although not all of those rate increases and reliability decreases can be blamed entirely on those commissioners, there can be no doubt that the rate hikes and reliability problems were made worse by the inexperience of those in charge of the commission at the time.

Moreover, those very commissioners who received on the job training at the PSC turned their learning experience and connections to utility executives into lucrative positions in the utility world they once regulated. The record speaks for itself – it is a disgrace.

Senator Jeff Plale

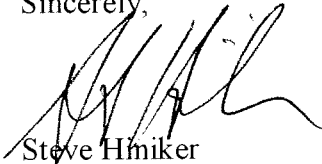
March 26, 2007

Page 2

This, however, is not a concern with Lauren Azar. Lauren did her work the old fashioned way. She went to school and worked her way through many cases to become a true expert in the field of electric utility regulation. In the process she represented both consumers and utilities, gaining insights on the complex interactions between regulators, utilities and consumers. She will walk into her job as a bona fide expert with no need to ingratiate herself to any utility with hopes of getting a high paid job at the end of her term. She wants to put her talents to good use for the public interest. She is exactly what ratepayers need after years of incompetent political insiders pandering to those who they hoped (accurately it turns out) would hire them someday.

Lauren holds the promise of leading the Commission to regain its reputation as the finest in the country. I give her my strongest endorsement for the position of commissioner.

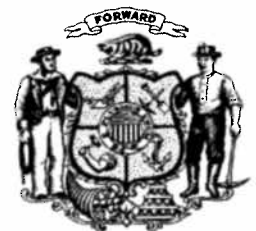
Sincerely,



Steve Hmiker



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Madison Gas and Electric Company  
P.O. Box 1231  
Madison, WI 53701-1231  
608-252-7000

*your community energy company*

**Gary J. Wolter**  
Chairman, President and  
Chief Executive Officer  
608-252-7292

**RECEIVED**

MAR 29 2007

**Commissioners' Office**

March 28, 2007

Senator Jeffrey Plale  
Chair - Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Utilities and Rail  
State Capitol, Room 313 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Plale,

Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) would like to offer its support and ask the Committee to endorse the Governor's nomination of Lauren Azar as a member of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW).

MGE has had the opportunity to interact with Ms. Azar on a number of occasions and has witnessed her capabilities in various settings. MGE believes Ms. Azar has the knowledge, ability and temperament to be an excellent commissioner.

As a utility regulated by the PSCW, MGE and its customers depend on commission decisions that are well reasoned and balanced to protect customer and shareholder interest. These are often difficult decisions. A person of Ms. Azar's ability serving on the body is of utmost importance. While it is unlikely that we and our customers will agree with every decision made by Commissioner Azar and her fellow commissioners, we are confident those decisions will be even-handed and reflective of how she sees the best long term interest of the State of Wisconsin.

We encourage the Committee and Senate to approve Ms. Azar's nomination to the PSCW.

Sincerely,

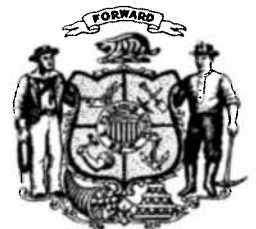
Chairman, President and  
Chief Executive Officer

bj

cc: Commissioner Azar  
Senators Breske, Wirch, Hansen, Cowles, Harsdorf, Kedzie



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**JOSÉ M. DELGADO**  
PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

March 28, 2007

The Honorable Jeffrey Plale  
Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail  
The State Senate  
Room 313 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Plale:

Please accept this letter as a strong recommendation for Lauren Azar's confirmation as a commissioner of the Public Service Commission.

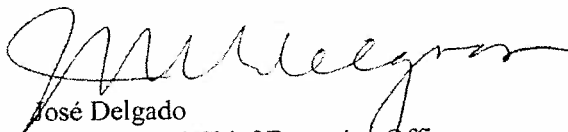
Ms. Azar has served from time-to-time as a lawyer for issues related to important matters for our company. She has also represented parties with interests different from ATC's. In all instances, we found her to be a top class professional. Whether on our side or opposing us, she understood the issues, presented thoughtful argument, stuck to the facts and the law, and made reasoned judgments to further her client's interest within the bounds of her representation.

Based on our experience, we believe she will represent her new client, the people of Wisconsin, with the same breadth of experience, integrity, thoughtfulness, and reasoned judgment within the bounds of the Public Service Commission's jurisdiction.

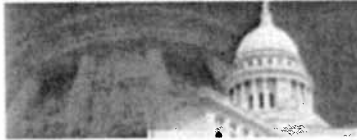
We therefore, unequivocally, endorse her for confirmation by the Committee and, ultimately, the full Senate. She will be a credit to State service and a true servant of the people.

Thank you for your consideration.

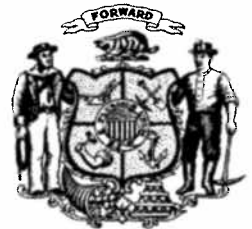
Sincerely,

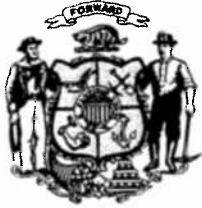


José Delgado  
President and Chief Executive Officer



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Daniel R. Ebert, Chairperson  
Mark Meyer, Commissioner  
Lauren Azar, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

April 2, 2007

Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail  
Wisconsin Senate  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Committee Members:

We are writing in support of Lauren Azar's appointment to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC).

Commissioner Azar brings with her a wealth of experience, including extensive work in the area of electric and water utilities, where she represented both ratepayers and utilities, and she is recognized as a leading environmental attorney. Commissioner Azar has also been a speaker at Wisconsin Public Utility Institute's "Energy Basics: Regulation Overview" conference and a number of other conferences and seminars related to public utilities and environmental law. In addition to being a highly sought speaker, Commissioner Azar is a co-editor and one of the primary authors for *Wisconsin Environmental Law Handbook*, Government Institutes, Inc. (soon to be released).

As we focus on our strategic initiatives, including environmentally sustainable energy alternatives, accountability in the regional wholesale market, improved planning processes, and utility workforce planning, Commissioner Azar's perspective, experience, and skills will be critical in advancing Wisconsin's balanced energy policy. Those same skills will also serve her well in helping the Commission respond to consumer protection, telecommunications and water resource challenges and opportunities in the years ahead.

We are pleased to extend our enthusiastic support for the appointment of Commissioner Lauren Azar.

Best regards,

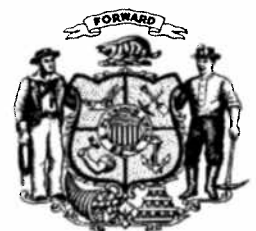
Daniel R. Ebert  
Chairperson

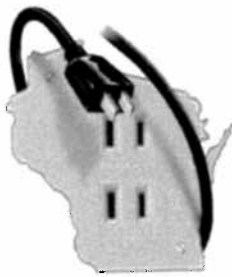
Mark Meyer  
Commissioner





# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





## Customers First! Plugging Wisconsin In

April 3, 2007

Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail  
Room 313 South – State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Chairperson Plale and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Utilities and Rail:

When the committee holds its executive session on April 4, 2007, the Customers First! Coalition would like to be placed on record as expressing its support for Senate confirmation of the appointment of Lauren Azar as a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC).

When selecting a PSC Commissioner, there are obvious benefits in appointing someone who has a well-developed expertise in the complex legal and policy questions that come before the commission. It is clear that in choosing Lauren Azar, the Governor has found an appointee whose work in the utility and environmental law earned her high esteem in her profession and provides her strong qualification to serve as a Commissioner.

We also recognize that when appointing someone with recent involvement in the regulatory proceedings of the Commission, there will likely be a responsibility to take actions to preserve the independence of the Commission and the confidence of the public. We note that Ms. Azar has announced her intention to not participate in decisions of the Commission that involve cases she worked on as a private attorney. We are pleased that Ms. Azar started to address this issue almost immediately upon the announcement of her appointment.

In its recently issued Strategic Energy Assessment, the PSC presented many of the coming challenges that will need to be addressed by our state's energy policies. It is our coalition's view that Ms. Azar is highly qualified to help guide the PSC as it addresses those challenges, and that the people of Wisconsin will be well served by this appointment

Sincerely,

JOHN SUMI  
Executive Director  
Customers First! Coalition

*CFC is a broad-based alliance representing Wisconsin customer, environmental, labor, business and low-income groups, Wisconsin municipal and cooperative utilities and Madison Gas & Electric Company. Since 1996, the coalition has advocated for energy policies in Wisconsin that preserve the state's historically safe, affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity.*

A Coalition

to Preserve

Wisconsin's

Reliable

and Affordable

Electricity

14 West Mifflin Street

Suite 310

Madison, WI 53703

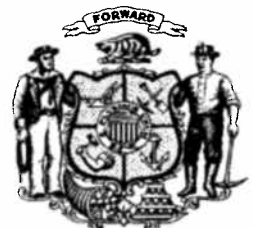
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# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





725 Lois Drive  
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590  
(608) 837-2263  
Fax (608) 837-0206  
[www.meuw.org](http://www.meuw.org)

Algoma  
Arcadia  
Argyle  
Bangor  
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Belmont  
Benton  
Black Earth  
Black River Falls  
Bloomer  
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Brodhead  
Cadott  
Cashton  
Cedarburg  
Centuria  
Clintonville  
Columbus  
Cornell  
Cuba City  
Cumberland  
Eagle River  
Elkhorn  
Elroy  
Evansville  
Fennimore  
Florence  
Gresham  
Hartford  
Hazel Green  
Hustisford  
Jefferson  
Juneau  
Kaukauna  
Kiel  
La Farge  
Lake Mills  
Lodi  
Manitowoc  
Marshfield  
Mazomanie  
Medford  
Menasha  
Merrillan  
Mount Horeb  
Muscodia  
New Glarus  
New Holstein  
New Lisbon  
New London  
New Richmond  
Oconomowoc  
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Pardeeville  
Plymouth  
Prairie du Sac  
Princeton  
Reedsburg  
Rice Lake  
Richland Center  
River Falls  
Sauk City  
Shawano  
Sheboygan Falls  
Shullsburg  
Spooner  
Stoughton  
Stratford  
Sturgeon Bay  
Sun Prairie  
Trempealeau  
Two Rivers  
Viola  
Waterloo  
Waunakee  
Waupun  
Westby  
Whitehall  
Wisconsin Dells  
Wisconsin Rapids  
Wonewoc

April 3, 2007

Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities & Rail  
Room 313 South – State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

**RE: Please Support the Confirmation of Attorney Lauren L. Azar's  
Appointment to Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.**

Dear Chair Plale and Members of the Committee:

The Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW) would like to be placed on record as expressing its support for Senate confirmation of Attorney Azar to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW).

MEUW represents the community-owned and operated local electric utilities in the State, all of which are regulated by the PSCW as to rates, infrastructure and service levels. Collectively, these municipal electric utilities (see list at left) distribute electricity to over a quarter of a million residential, commercial, industrial and farm customers.

Attorney Azar has outstanding credentials to offer for the position of PSCW Commissioner. Her professional experience as an energy and utility attorney, along with her law degree and a masters degree in Water Resources Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will suite her well as she begins her job as a regulator serving the public interest.

Needless to say, these are challenging times for utility regulators. The PSCW works to ensure that, in the absence of competition, adequate and reasonably priced service is provided to utility customers. The upward trend of electric rates in recent years, caused by a number of recent factors including the current building cycle, adds to the pressure for state regulators to make every effort to keep rate hikes in check through prudent regulation. We are confident that Attorney Azar will apply her knowledge and fair judgment in a manner that will benefit the public interest.

We urge the Committee to approve Attorney Azar's appointment to the PSCW.

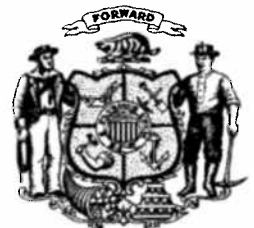
Sincerely,

David J. Benforado  
Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Lauren Azar, PSCW  
Ron Hermes/Chris Patton, Governor Doyle's Office



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





April 4, 2007

The Honorable Jeff Plale  
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Re: In support of the nomination of Lauren Azar to the Public Service Commission.

Dear Senator Plale:

The Citizens Utility Board would like to express its support for the nomination of Lauren Azar to serve as a commissioner of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

CUB is a member-supported, nonprofit organization that advocates for reliable and affordable utility service and that represents the interests of residential, farm, and small business customers of electric, natural gas, and telecommunication utilities before regulatory agencies and the courts.

Over the past several years, Ms. Azar provided legal representation for several utilities and affiliates as they pursued approval for various items, including construction permits for power lines and the sale of a nuclear power plant, to name a few. In some of these cases, CUB raised serious concerns and objections to the proposals by the utilities. Despite sometimes being at opposite ends of issues before the PSC, Ms. Azar always treated CUB staff, associates, and policy positions with respect and professionalism. Given her knowledge of utility regulation and energy policy, we believe that she provided excellent legal representation for her clients.

Clearly, Ms. Azar's professional experience in utility regulation will serve her well at the PSC. But we're also confident that Ms. Azar will help find the elusive balance between the interests of utility ratepayers and the regulated utilities that provide a majority of the gas and electric service in Wisconsin.

Therefore, CUB urges you and the honorable members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail to support the nomination of Ms. Azar to the Public Service Commission.

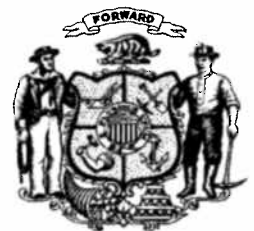
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Higley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Charlie Higley  
Executive Director



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



April 4, 2007

Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities  
and Rail  
Room 313 South-State Capitol  
Madison, WI. 53702


Dear Chairperson Plale and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail,

I have spent approximately 30 years in Wisconsin in the public utility industry typically as a lawyer or consultant for consumer and environmental groups. I also had the good fortune to serve as a Commissioner on the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin from the mid to late 1980s (appointed by Governor Tony Earl). While the energy challenges facing Wisconsin have changed over time, what has not changed is the need for a Commission that is committed to achieving the public interest, is open-minded in that pursuit and is concerned about the consequences as well as the public perceptions of its decisions.

I have had the opportunity to work with Lauren Azar over the past few years on various matters (sometimes on the "opposing" side) and recommend that she be confirmed to the Commission. She has the intellect, independence, open-mindedness, and commitment to the public interest that will serve Wisconsin consumers well. She also understands that it is important that the Commission's decisions should have the confidence of the public both in terms of substance and process.

Wisconsin faces many difficult energy challenges over the next few years. Your confirmation of Ms. Azar to the Commission will help assure that the people of Wisconsin are well served in meeting those challenges.

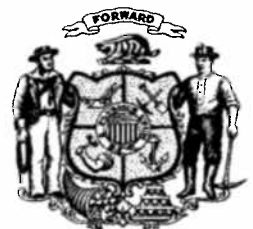
Sincerely,

  
George R. Edgar, N8274 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Neshkoro, WI. 54960





# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





## Memorandum

April 17, 2007

TO: Chairman Plale and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail  
FR: Keith Reopelle, Program Director for Clean Wisconsin  
RE: Support for the Appointment of Lauren Azar to the Public Service Commission

I am writing to express support for the appointment of Ms. Lauren Azar to the Public Service Commission and urge you to recommend confirmation of her appointment by the full Senate.

Ms. Azar clearly has a wealth of experience working on legal issues related to both water and electric utilities that uniquely qualify her for a position on the Public Service Commission.

In her practice she has represented consumers, investor owned utilities and independent power producers giving her an appreciation of a broad spectrum of view points.

We believe that her experience in a wide range of environmental issues including contaminated lands, brownfields development, waste water permits, storm water permits, wetlands projects, non-metallic mining and a variety of land use issues will serve her well in exercising her authority and obligation to protect public health and welfare in her duties as a Commissioner.

We also believe that her wide range of experience and interests will serve her well in representing the public's interest in the environmental challenges ahead including:

1. Reestablishing a much need integrated resource planning process,
2. Carrying out the Governor's directive to become energy independent by meeting 25 percent of our energy supply through renewable energy resources by 2025,
3. Meeting the challenge of reducing our global warming emissions by 80% by 2050, and transitioning from our fleet of old dirty coal plants to cleaner generation sources.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important appointment.



122 State Street • Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53703-4333  
[www.cleanwisconsin.org](http://www.cleanwisconsin.org)

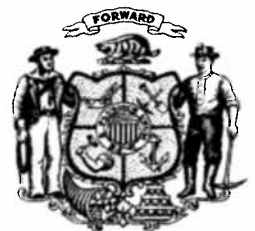
Phone 608-251-7020  
Fax 608-251-1655  
Email: [info@cleanwisconsin.org](mailto:info@cleanwisconsin.org)

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# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**Lauren L. Azar**  
809 Spaight Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
Phone: 608.256.7036

## Education

- J.D.** University of Wisconsin – Madison, 1994, *cum laude*, Order of the Coif,  
Business Editor of *Wisconsin Women's Law Journal*
- M.S.** University of Wisconsin – Madison, 1994, Water Resources Management
- M.A.** Northwestern University, 1987, Philosophy
- B.A.** Rutgers College, 1984, High Honors

## Employment Summary

### **Michael Best & Friedrich LLP**

2001-Present Partner  
1994-2001 Associate  
1992-1994 Clerk

### **Dane County Housing Authority**

1989-1990 Assistant to the Director  
1988-1989 Housing Counseling Specialist

## Areas of Legal Concentration

Lauren Azar practices in the areas of public utilities, environmental, land use, government relations and administrative law, each of which is described below.

**Public Utilities Law:** Ms. Azar works extensively in the area of electric and water utilities. Her public utility practice includes the creation of new public utilities, siting of new electric facilities, the transfer of electric facilities from one utility to another and extension of both water and electric service into new areas. Ms. Azar also represents ratepayers in a variety of roles including negotiating power purchase agreements and resolving disputes with utilities. She has also represented independent power producers seeking to expand into Wisconsin. Her public utility practice brings her before the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin regularly.

**Environmental Law:** Ms. Azar has been involved with a full array of environmental projects, including the following: environmental cleanups, transactions involving insurance coverage for contaminated properties, wastewater permits, stormwater permits, and permits for developments involving

wetlands. Ms. Azar's Master's Degree in Water Resources Management provides her with a sound technical background with which she approaches all environmental problems.

**Land Use Law:** Ms. Azar has a broad range of land use experience through representation of developers, individual property owners and municipalities. Such representation has included the following: surface water disputes, cooperative boundary agreements, privately-owned wastewater treatment system ordinance drafting, adverse possession cases, dam disputes, brownfield development, regulatory takings, inter-municipal contracts, special use areas such as sanitary districts, permitting for non-metallic mining operations, and permitting for commercial developments. In addition to her legal experience, Ms. Azar has also received front-line experience as a former member of the City of Madison Plan Commission.

**Governmental Relations:** Ms. Azar's practice regularly brings her before numerous state administrative agencies, including the Public Service Commission, as well as the Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources and Commerce. For land use matters, she appears before numerous municipalities at the staff level and before their legislative and adjudicative bodies. Ms. Azar's regulatory activities include permitting for a multitude of projects and obtaining funding for those projects. Ms. Azar is involved in numerous political activities at the local and national levels. On the local level, Ms. Azar regularly sits on municipal commissions and committees. On the national level, she owns a condominium on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

**Administrative Law:** Combining litigation skills with a regulatory practice, Ms. Azar can seamlessly move from a proactive regulatory proceeding to, if necessary, a contested-case hearing or civil litigation. With a Master's Degree in Water Resources Management, Ms. Azar brings technical skills to contested proceedings before local governments and state agencies.

## **Speeches and Publications**

Co-Editor: *Wisconsin Environmental Law Handbook 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Government Institutes, Inc., publication expected 2007.

Author: Wetlands, Surface Water, and Groundwater/Drinking Water Chapters;  
Co-Author: Utility Infrastructure Siting and WPDES Permits Chapters;  
*Wisconsin Environmental Law Handbook 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Government Institutes, Inc., publication expected 2007.

Speaker: "Energy Basics: Regulation Overview," Wisconsin Public Utility Institute, October 2006.

Speaker: "Energy Basics: Regulation Overview," Wisconsin Public Utility Institute, October 2005.

Author/Speaker: "Environmental and Real Estate Issues in Business Acquisition Transactions in Wisconsin," Lorman Seminar, September 2005.

Speaker: "Environmental Issues in Business Transactions," Marquette University, April 2005.

Author/Speaker: "Environmental and Real Estate Issues in Business Acquisition Transactions in Wisconsin," Lorman Seminar, September 2004.

Speaker: "History of Utility Regulation," Wisconsin Public Utility Institute, October 2003.

Author/Speaker: "Revisions to Wisconsin's Storm Water Rule: Chapter NR 216," University of Wisconsin Law School/Extension, 2003 Wisconsin Water Law and Policy Conference, May 2003.

Author/Speaker: "Complying with Environmental and Special-Use Regulations," National Business Institute, August 2002.

Author/Speaker: "Distinguishing Non-Conforming Lots & Structures," National Business Institute, August 2001.

Author/Speaker: "Land Use Law Update in Wisconsin," National Business Institute, August 2001.

Speaker: "Transfer of Contaminated Properties, Alpha Terra Science Seminar, April 2001.

Author/Speaker: "Land Use Law Update in Wisconsin," National Business Institute, July 2000.

Author/Speaker: "Environmental Concerns for Developers," National Business Institute, January 2000.

Author/Speaker: "Drainage Districts in Wisconsin," University of Wisconsin Law School/Extension, 2000 Wisconsin Water Law and Policy Conference, May 2000.

Speaker: "Women in Construction: Storm Water Permits for Construction Sites," National Association for Women in Construction, February 2000.

Author/Speaker: "Planning Tools in Wisconsin," National Business Institute, July 1999.

Author/Speaker: "Insurance Coverage for Environmental Claims," State Bar of Wisconsin – Young Lawyers Division, June 1999.

Author/Speaker: "Landfill Liability Issues for Counties," Wisconsin Counties Solid

Waste Management Association, July 1999.

Speaker: "Vehicle Equipment Washing Permits," Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association, July 1999.

Author/Speaker: "Environmental and Special Use Regulations," National Business Institute, March 1998.

Speaker: "Land Recycling Act and Brownfields," Vierbecher Seminar, June 1997.

Speaker: "Storm Water," Michael Best & Friedrich LLP Seminar, September 1996.

Speaker: "PECFA," Fluid Management Seminar, March 1996.

Speaker: "Tier Two Storm Water Prevention Plans," Michael Best & Friedrich LLP Seminar, February 1996.

Speaker: "Impacts on Real Estate Transactions," Miller Engineers Seminar, October 1995.

Speaker: "ILHR 83: Private Sewage Systems," Wisconsin Counties Association, September 1995.

Speaker: "Storm Water," Michael Best & Friedrich LLP Seminar, May 1995.

Speaker: "Storm Water Permits for Construction Sites," BT<sup>2</sup> and First Associated Bank Seminar, April 1995.

**Awards & Recognitions**

2007 named The Best Lawyers in America in the area of energy law

2003 and 2005 Best Lawyers in Madison – Environmental – Madison Magazine  
(There was no Best Lawyers rating in 2004)

1994: University of Wisconsin Alumni Award

**Legal Ratings**

Martindale Hubbell Rating is AV: "AV Peer Review Rating — shows that a lawyer has reached the height of professional excellence. He or she has usually practiced law for many years, and is recognized for the highest levels of skill and integrity."

**Civic Activities**

Member, Dane County Fair Housing Ordinance Subcommittee, current

Board Member, Downtown Madison Inc. ("DMI"), former and currently pending

Chair, DMI Quality of Life Committee, former  
Board Member, Impact Seven, Inc., former  
Chair, Democratic Party 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District – Nominating Committee 2005  
Chair, Dane County Housing Authority Board, 1998-2005  
Board Member, Giving B.A.C.K., 2003-2005  
Member, Madison Civic Center Commission, former, 1998-2001  
Member, City of Madison Plan Commission, 1997-1998  
Board Member (and Chair), Rape Crisis Center, 1987-1990

**Admissions**

Wisconsin Bar, 1994  
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, 1994

**Professional Associations**

Member, Wisconsin State Bar Association  
Member, Wisconsin Bar, Environmental Law Division  
Member, Wisconsin Bar, Energy and Telecommunications Division  
Member, Wisconsin Bar, Administrative and Local Government Law  
Member, American Bar Association ("ABA")  
Member, ABA Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law Section  
Member, ABA Section of Public Utility, Communications and Transportation Law

**Hobbies**

Sailing, pottery, photography, and renovating our 1894 Queen Anne Victorian House

**Family**

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and two rescued cats, Sid and Harley.