



Testimony on Senate Bill 90 April 7th, 2015

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding Senate Bill 90.

Wisconsin law requires that the Department of Transportation identify on its state highway maps the location of certain veteran memorials and other veteran-related sites. In addition to sites like the Wisconsin Veterans Museum here in Madison and Milwaukee County Memorial Center, the maps list the locations of memorials in smaller communities, including the Memorial Park in Arcadia, the All Veterans Memorial in Clear Lake, and the Highground Veterans Memorial Park outside Neillsville. The statutory list also includes the Wisconsin Veterans Homes at King and Union Grove.

Senate Bill 90 would add the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls to the list. The home opened in 2013 and should join the King and Union Grove facilities on the statutory list.

This legislation was suggested to me by my constituent former State Sen. Dave Zien, himself a veteran and longtime advocate for veteran's issues. I chose to co-author this legislation as I believe in the significance of identifying these important veteran-related sites in honor of the countless Wisconsin veterans who have fought to protect our great nation.

As you may know, the Wisconsin DOT recently issued its 2015 state highway maps. While the new maps include the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls at the request of several legislators and other stakeholders, the department has indicated its preference that such decisions be backed by statutory authority. Because these maps have already been issued, there is no fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 90. I appreciate that this bill is receiving a hearing today.