



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor  
Joel Brennan, Secretary

July 29, 2019

Mr. Patrick E. Fuller, Chief Clerk  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
17 West Main Street, Room 208  
Madison, WI 53703


Mr. Jeff Renk, Chief Clerk  
Wisconsin State Senate  
17 West Main Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 401  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Messrs. Fuller and Renk:

In accordance with s. 16.548, Wis. Stats., please find enclosed the quarterly report for the Wisconsin Federal-State Relations Office (Office). This report contains information on the activities of the Office and the status of federal legislation of concern to the State of Wisconsin for the second quarter of calendar year 2019.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the report.

Sincerely,



Joel Brennan  
Secretary

cc: Governor Tony Evers

Enclosure

State of Wisconsin  
Washington, D.C. Federal Relations Office  
Quarterly Report  
April 1 – June 30, 2019

This quarter began with continued outreach to Wisconsin's federal delegation and agency officials. The Director met with all delegation Chief of Staffs, as well as agency representatives from 14 different federal agencies.

The DC Director attended several conferences in the DC area during the quarter. The White House hosted state, local, and tribal leaders to hear about Opportunity Zones and how to best leverage the program. The Department of Education hosted a forum on Rethinking Correctional and Reentry Education, and the Health & Human Services hosted a forum on State Relief and Empowerment Waivers. The Director also attended a retreat hosted by the National Governors Association, bringing together Federal Directors from over 25 different Governors' offices. The office also participated in the DC Meets Madison Day, connecting with business leaders from the Madison area.

The DC office also sent several letters to federal partners. Our request for National Security Special Event status from the DHS for the 2020 Democratic National Convention was granted and our appropriations request for security funding associated with the DNC was passed out of the House. Additional letters were sent to USTR to alert them to unfair tariffs hitting Wisconsin's ginseng industry, and to USDA in support of their ReConnect Program – helping to expand rural broadband across Wisconsin. The DC office also facilitated signing onto a letter with several Governors urging Congress to pass a Supplemental Disaster Appropriations bill to help relieve areas hit by federally declared disasters.

Both Governor Tony Evers and Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes made trips to DC during the quarter. The Governor had a short trip in which he accepted a Distinguished Service Award at the Council of Chief State School Officers Annual Legislative Conference and had a meeting with industry leaders with business in Wisconsin.

The Lieutenant Governor visits included a meeting with Senator Baldwin, business leaders, and testifying on the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations. His testimony spoke on the impact eliminating broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP would have on Wisconsin families.

Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner Mark Afable and Deputy Commissioner Nathan Houdek also visited DC as part of an association fly in. They met with several members of the delegation to discuss the importance of the National Flood Insurance Program and the trends they are seeing with short-term insurance plans in the Wisconsin marketplace.

The quarter ended on a busy note, with both DNR Secretary Preston Cole and DOC Secretary Kevin Carr coming to DC. Secretary Cole testified on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. He testified and spoke with delegation members on the importance for the continued funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Fund, and the work that he and the Governor are doing to protect Wisconsin's water resources, and the work happening on chronic wasting disease. Secretary Carr visited DC as part of an association fly in and met with members and staff about how incarcerated individuals could benefit from expansion of the Pell Grant and WOIA programs, and how these could help reduce recidivism in Wisconsin.