



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor  
Joel Brennan, Secretary

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Mr. Patrick E. Fuller, Chief Clerk  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
17 West Main Street, Suite 401  
Madison, WI 53703

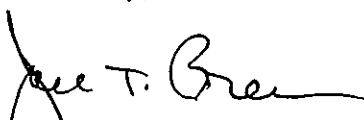
Mr. Jeff Renk, Chief Clerk  
Wisconsin State Senate  
B20 South East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707

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 fourth 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  
October 1 – December 31, 2019

The Governor visited DC this quarter and while in town, called an all-delegation meeting, the first time in several years such a meeting had been organized. All House Representatives, and staff members for Senators Johnson and Baldwin, sat down with the Governor and discussed items such as the FAST Act rescission, the need for continued funding for several important federally funded programs, and the clean water initiatives happening in Wisconsin. The Governor also thanked the delegation for their unanimous support in asking for a major disaster declaration for the State as a result of severe storms in July.

Department of Financial Institutions Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld, and Department of Natural Resources Secretary-designee Preston Cole, also visited DC this quarter. The DC office set up and staffed meetings for both trips. Secretary Blumenfeld met with Senators Johnson and Baldwin, and staff from Representatives Steil, Pocan, Kind, Moore, and Grothman. Secretary Blumenfeld also attended a half day briefing organized by the National Governors Association to discuss the student loan debt crisis and to learn what other states are doing in this issue area.

Secretary-designee Cole met with Representatives Steil, Pocan, Kind, Moore, and Grothman, as well as staff for Representatives Sensenbrenner and Gallagher, and Senators Johnson and Baldwin. He discussed the work Wisconsin is doing on CWD and water quality issues and offered to be a resource as they are talking to their constituents about natural resource issues. The Secretary-designee also met with Under Secretary Jim Hubbard at USDA to discuss federal resources for CWD management and the Good Neighbor Authority program.

Letters sent by the Governor this quarter included signing on to coalition letters in support of reforming the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program, and passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which was voted out of committee on December 5, 2019. The Governor also worked with Wisconsin Department of Health to craft a letter in response to the House Energy & Commerce committee to show how Wisconsin is using federal funds to combat the opioid crisis, and offer suggestions on reforms that could be made to better use the funds. The Governor and Secretary-designee Craig Thompson also sent a letter to the delegation urging the FAST Act recession, which was later passed by Congress.

The DC office also staffed several important meetings in DC, including a federal update on the Soo Locks project from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers, and a half-day conference at the White House for governor's senior staff.

Finally, the DC office worked to make sure the delegation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) had everything set for the Governor to announce his support in reopening the National Marine Sanctuary designation in Lake Michigan. The Governor is proud of Wisconsin's Great Lakes, and was excited to move this designation from NOAA forward to help protect these historically significant shipwrecks.