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Good afternoon. My name is Mark Alan Kastel. I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Wisconsin Farmers Union. The Farmers Union represents the interest of thousands of small and medium-sized farm operations in virtually every agriculturally productive county of our state.

The legislature has a great challenge this biennium, can you fulfill the promise to farmers and homeowners to radically restructure school funding and provide long-awaited real estate tax justice? Can you accomplish this without turning Wisconsin into a bargain basement discount state in terms of our quality of life? Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, these states have comparatively low real estate tax rates, but in terms of education and society, pale in comparison to what our great state offers its citizens in the way of quality and opportunity.

Some proposals in this budget are wholly undemocratic and fiscally regressive. We object to lowering both real estate and income taxes for the rich elite in our state. Buying these reductions with raises in income taxes and fees for the balance of our hard-working citizens is highly objectionable.

The press has focused on the Governor's proposed income tax rate reduction for the rich but has failed to outline the fact that they will also be the largest beneficiaries of the real estate tax reform. Savings on their \$200,000 to \$500,000 residential real estate tax bills will be substantial. The fee raises proposed in this budget are inconsequential to these affluent citizens earning \$100,000 to \$200,000 or more per year, but hit hard on the working class people in this state.

In addition, savings gleaned by eliminating needed programs for the indigent and disabled amounts to nothing more than blood money once again being transferred to our most affluent citizens. The stereotype of the single welfare mom in Milwaukee is wholly unrepresentative of the scope of Wisconsin's needy.

In my own county in Western Wisconsin, many poor and elderly depend on programs now being considered for elimination in both Washington and Madison. Without these programs, such as weatherization, heating assistance, home health care, supplemental disability income, etc., many will be forced out of their homes. Our rural income base in society suffers, while more fortunate families in other parts of the state enjoy a marked increase in their disposable and discretionary income.

Although the Republican leadership in Congress were up front in communicating their agenda to the American people before the last election, many of the Governor's more radical proposals for re-engineering Wisconsin's government have left much of the citizenry both shocked and surprised.

The Governor and the new Republican majority in the Legislature deserve their chance to present new and innovative programs. However, many of the major policy shifts contained in the budget, whether fiscal or not, should be openly debated on their individual merits. These debates need to include the citizens of this state at legislative public hearings.

We respectfully ask this committee to please break up this bill and give the citizens of this state the opportunity to communicate with their elected representatives in an open, thoughtful and reflective process.

There are a few individual agriculturally-related comments we would like to make briefly today.

1. The members of the Wisconsin Farmers Union are opposed to any attempt to water down our state's democratic process. Specifically, this includes doing away with the citizen boards at both the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Department of Natural Resources.

Citizens of Wisconsin have been vitally involved and interested in both of these departments. It strengthens our government by encouraging their continued support and participation.

2. We stand opposed to doing away with the elected power at the Department of Public Instruction. In addition, any fiscal change that increases funding to schools in affluent, property-rich districts at the expense of poor rural districts is wholly unacceptable and goes against the long-standing philosophy of equalizing opportunity and education.

3. Plans to take away control of state parks from the DNR, the budget of the intervenor's office, and civil service protection for any state's employee, budget and responsibilities at the UW system, all reduce citizen control and input and should be eliminated from the budget and debated separately.

4. Plans to increase the cost of gas is a wholly regressive form of taxation. The workers of rural Wisconsin, by the very definition of our state's geography, will be hit hard by this proposal. This again has rural residents supplementing the real estate tax deductions for suburbanites with relatively short commutes.

The majority of tax and fee proposals in this budget make our state's system much less progressive. Unlike the personal and corporate income tax, none of these, nor does the real estate tax, have any relationship with the taxpayer's ability to pay.

In closing, the Farmers Union supports progressive taxation and more democratic input at all levels of Wisconsin government. AB150 is not just another budget bill. It re-engineers our state's system of government. Consider it carefully and break it up, enabling citizens to comment at hearings on all the individual fiscal and particularly non-fiscal policy proposals.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak before your committee.



DAIRYLAND GREYHOUND PARK

Terry A. Gaouette
Vice President Corporate Affairs

STATEMENT

Dairyland Greyhound Park, Inc. maintains the passage of the simulcasting provision of the Governor's budget bill will not have a detrimental impact on live racing in Wisconsin.

Dairyland Management is committed to live racing as its primary product. We are very aware of the importance of live racing strategically for our long term survival. Simulcasting will be used to supplement our basic product, live racing. We do not look at simulcasting as our primary product, nor do we look at it as a product that we will use in any way to detract from the importance of live racing.

By statute Dairyland Greyhound Park and all Wisconsin pari-mutuel licenses are precluded from offering less than 250 live races per year in order to retain its license to race, as outlined under Statute 562.05(6m).

Dairyland Greyhound Park, Inc. also supports the change in the takeout provision as part of the Governor's budget bill. Like any and all retail business Dairyland Greyhound Park, Inc. needs to have the ability to pass along the increased cost of operations.

With the change in the takeout provision, Dairyland will now have the flexibility to pass on these additional costs and be afforded the same opportunities as any other retail business in order to match its price with the competitive cost of doing business.

In some other states, the takeout percent is higher than our current rates and it has not had a detrimental impact on racing. Illinois as an example has rates on a variety of wagers with takeout up to 27.5%.

By allowing Dairyland to change the takeout percentage we can continue to offer the same high quality customer service and product that has been our hallmark since the day we opened.

ROBERT W. LUTZ *
Court Commissioner

JAMES P. BURNETT

DEREK McDERMOTT

GARY N. JAHN

ANDREW J. KING

* Certified Civil Trial Specialist
by the National Board of Trial Advocacy

LUTZ, BURNETT, McDERMOTT & JAHN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

50 EAST MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 146

CHILTON, WISCONSIN 53014

(414) 849-9323

FAX (414) 849-9326

HELMUTH F. ARPS 1916-1947

June 30, 1994

Mr. Jesse Poppy
630 South Military
Chilton, Wisconsin 53014

Dear Mr. Poppy:

I write to you on behalf of the Village of Stockbridge. Our office serves as the village attorney. Village Ordinance Section 3.14 requires as follows:

All buildings connected to the Village sewer system shall have a sump pump installed thereon. No clear and/or surface waters shall be permitted to run into the sanitary sewer lines. Any construction on newly developed lots shall require piping connections from sump pumps to storm sewers, if available along abutting street right-of-way.

We are advised that you are one of eight property owners which are not in compliance with said Ordinance for the following reason: Drain valve on active cistern is leaking. Also no sump pump at this location. Correct leaky cistern valve and install proper sump pump and pit.

Please comply with the Ordinance as requested within this letter. If compliance is not had within 30 days, the Village will have to evaluate legal proceedings to require compliance.

Very truly yours,



JAMES P. BURNETT

JPB/bas

cc: Ms. Gail Eldred

Stockbridge Refuses Proposal to Pay Part of Prior Utility Expenses

Board Will Not Cover Costs of Formation of Sewerage District

STOCKBRIDGE—The village board Wednesday night voted down a proposal to assume a portion of expenses incurred before the formation of the utility district, but which it now feels belongs to the district.

George Hostettler, village president and member of the utility commission, broke a 3-3 deadlock of the board by voting against the proposal.

A representative of the E. A. Dettmann Auditing firm, Appleton, submitted the proposal in an effort to settle a dispute

about \$5,507 to complete an audit of the utility district. The firm represents the utility district.

Contested Expenses

Contested expenses include legal fees, a preliminary survey of the entire village, engineering fees, down payment on the sewage site, advertising costs and the cost of an easement for the sewage site.

In later action the board voted to send an itemized bill to the utility district for \$4,366 incurred before the formation of the district in November, 1963.

Not everyone in the village uses the sewerage system.

Action stemmed from a village resident who was not a member of the utility district appearing at the August meeting, demanding the village be reimbursed by the district for all expenses incurred for the sewage plant and planning.

Jesse Poppy, one of the rural residents of the village, told the board "Either the village gets paid the \$5,000 due it by the utility district or I will see that it is taken to court and the village will pay the attorney fees."

'Settle Issue'

President Hostettler urged the board to settle the issue at the Wednesday meeting so that "no further disruption of the harmony now existing in the community should be started by anyone."

The village will close its books concerning past expenses of the sewage installation. An audit of the utility district will be made.

Wednesday night the board was told that 90 users will be connected to the plant soon. Usage fees are being made to the deputy treasurer, Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher, and the last hookups are being made. Hookup deadline was Sept. 1.

el Stock Yard pen Monday

Other Valley Firms Waiting for Sept. 20 for End of Agreement With NFO to Resume Operations

Officials of Equity Cooperative's livestock yards at Bonduel, where two National Farmers Organization (NFO) demonstrators were killed Wednesday, said today they planned to reopen their operation there Monday.

Meanwhile, other valley livestock sales firms who have signed agreements with the NFO to remain closed at least until Sept. 20 waited impatiently for that deadline.

A temporary truce between the militant farm organization and livestock buyers and packers had been called for by Gov. John Reynolds pending a meeting between the state's chief executive and the president of the NFO today.

Truce Effective

The truce apparently was effective in northeastern Wisconsin, because there were no reports of demonstrations. Elsewhere in the state, there was some scattered picketing in spite of the truce.

Victims of the incident Wednesday at Bonduel were Howard Falk, 64, rural Bonduel, and Melvin L. Cummings, 43, rural Antigo. They died after they were run over by a livestock truck attempting to enter the yards.

Officials of R. Kuehne & Sons, Seymour, said they had signed an agreement with the NFO to remain closed until after Sept. 20.

They said their sales barn was

"officially closed," and they were not sending trucks out for stock. However they said they would "receive" any stock brought in before the deadline.

Depends on Others
Agreements signed by Kuehne and others in the valley area stipulate they will remain closed at least until Sept. 20, and longer if others—primarily Equity—remain closed.

James Nolan, of Nolan Bros. said he

to Receive

March 1, 1993

When sewage was installed in the Village of Stockbridge it was set up as users pay within a district. All costs, plant, lines, and engineering were paid by the district. Zoned agricultural lots are not residential lots without improvements. Plotted lots within the district are not assessed until developed. To my knowledge the sewer district has not been enlarged or dissolved.

Dorothy VandeHei has been assessed \$4,000.00 on 518.21770-110 of Lot 131 - 82 1/2 feet within the district. Across the road a new home was assessed \$550.00. Dwight Poppy was assessed \$4,000.00 in a flooded 300 front foot area. L. Jesse Poppy was assessed \$4,000.00 on zoned agriculture lot 131 with no improvements. Alex Goeser was assessed \$8,000.00 with one residence. Richard Bergstrom paid \$3600.00 for nine plotted lots. Richard Parsons was assessed \$12,000.00 total for sewage for residence, dance hall and tavern, and also 6 trailers in a trailer court. Art Levknecht with 6 plotted lots at Sunset Beach was assessed \$4,000.00 with one residence. There are several plotted lots in the district and outside the district that are not assessed. Also there are several zoned agricultural lots that were charged. The State Bank of Stockbridge paid \$550.00. They are in the district. The Village of Stockbridge had \$100,000.00 out at interest. They have borrowed \$375,000.00 plus they have paid Paul Westenberger \$2,500.00 and Lula Schoen \$2,000.00 for crop damage due to sewer line digging through private agricultural land. In 1976 the county planning committee had a survey made of sewage in Sunset Beach. It stated \$15,000.00 per hookup and \$76.00 per month sewer tax. [not sure whether this includes a grinder pump which would cost an extra \$4500.00.]

The cost to tunnel under State Highway 55 was \$6250.00. They cannot run a sewer line on the east side of Highway 55 without an easement from the property owner. Property line runs to the center of the road and the state only has 24 3/4 feet road right - 1/2 of a three rod road. Extra land has not been purchased.

The sewer district in the Village of Stockbridge is a utility. They have an appointed sewer board and a separate set of books. A utility is independent of all village taxation. Water is also a utility. The Village of Stockbridge has spent \$20,000.00 on a test well after a binding referendum was voted down. The village tried to bond the village for water without forming a district or a yes vote. The bonding company would not bond the village.

James Ecker Construction rebuilt Hickory Hills Road without engineering. Brush and rotten logs are buried in the center of the road. Culverts are too high. Ditch water cuts a ditch in my agriculture field. The road has been repaired several times due to brush going down. Village will not repair Hickory Hills Road or put up markers where there is no shoulder, as the state ordered, even though the village receives state road moneys. The Village of

Stockbridge spent \$166,000.00 on the rebuilding of State Highway 55. Also the village obtained an easement from property owners and subsidized them on curb, gutter, and sidewalk.

The reason for the law suit is that the following group have failed to administer the law of the constitution and the bill of rights of the United States and the statutes of the state of Wisconsin. I believe as a group this is a conspiracy to defraud, harass, and demolish one's reputation.

James Burnett is the Village of Stockbridge attorney. He is working for all village electors and taxpayers and must draft a workable petition for a referendum, _____ state statutes. He wrote me one on a brown envelope that could not be used. We drafted our own. The referendum was voted down. Then the village proceeded to bond the village and also drill a test well without a yes vote. Mr. James Burnett, as village attorney, must direct the village board and appointed sewer board according to the law - state and federal. He wrote a letter to me, as a dirt farmer, to sell my farm equipment. (Harassment.)

Mary Muellenbach, village president, had called a meeting for the purpose of discussing a sewer extension to the Stockbridge Harbor. I was not invited, but I went. When I tried to express my opinion she said "Jess, we are having a meeting here", took the village board into a smaller room and let Richard Volp, Richard Bergstrom, two reporters, and myself sit. While they were leaving, one of the board members asked whether they should invite the reporters in to their meeting. I believe they have borrowed between \$300,000.00 and \$500,000.00 for sewer extensions.

Alex Goeser and L. Jesse Poppy drafted the petition to hold a referendum for water. At the water vote Alex was not allowed to vote. At that time Mary Muellenbach was the appointed village clerk. She was contacted and she said that Alex could not vote, records show.

James Arthur, sewer engineer hired by the Village of Stockbridge for sewer extensions, ran sewer lines through agricultural crop land. The Village paid \$4,500.00 crop damage. Using gravity instead of grinder pumps and running the sewer lines on village road property would have cost \$8,500.00 instead of \$4,000.00. With \$4,000.00 the rest is put on the tax roll. This is not users pay. Much of the cost is on the general property tax roll.

Dwight Poppy and I met with James Arthur in his office in Fond du Lac and explained to him about the 300 front foot flooded parcel area. He said it could be filled. I believe that not without an OK from the watershed or the DNR can any home or building be built there. On the tax bill the tax is stated as sewer line.

James Ecker, appointed chairman of the Stockbridge Sewage District, conducted a sewage meeting to determine extension south along State Highway 55. When I protested their procedure, Jim threatened to

put it in by the running foot on my property, so I got up and left. Roland Gerhartz told me James said "he is gone - now we can put it in by the foot." James Ecker has no expertise, he is no engineer, he has no plumber's license. All he has is an eighth grade parochial school education. The village board and the sewer board voted on the extensions outside of the district. I could not vote at the extension meeting when I said that they could not put it in by the foot. David Sudgen asked about the yellow post at my south line. They know there was no room without an easement - harassment!

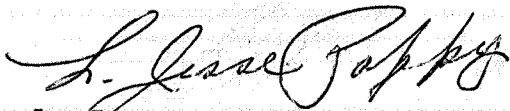
Leslie Rohl of the county planning committee called me on the phone and told me to put in a new mound system at the cost of \$10,000.00. There was no pollution. There still was none three years later, when I was made to hook on to the Stockbridge Sewer District. Then Leslie Rohl took me into court and was going to take me out of my home and quit using my system. I told his honor, Judge Nelson, that I would replace the system if there was pollution. Then I contacted the state. Carl Schultz, state plumbing inspector, could find nothing wrong. All he said was that the soil was not right. Judge Nelson did not sign the order. The grandfather clause still applied - the system was put in 1924.

When state plumber Carl Schultz came he had Leslie Rohl with him. She jumped on top of the evaporation system and tried to break off the breather pipe. She had no authority to enter my property. Then the county planning committee wrote me a letter to come to the office. I did not. I went to my lawyer, Joseph Biesenstein, and he asked "why don't you go in and sign a paper and say that you cannot afford it?" I said that I am not wrong, there is no pollution, I will not sign. I believe they were trying to plea bargain for their own good. Then their lawyer, M. E. Meller, quit. The county planning committee works on complaints. There is an ordinance in the Village of Stockbridge that states that the farmers do not have to hook on to the municipal sewer. The village ordered me to hook on to the sewer and I did not. Then Carl Schultz, state inspector, as he rapped on the door, popped a pill, and then told me that I MUST hook on. I told him to take me to court. Then Leslie Rohl took me to court with an order from a high state official. Judge Nelson so ordered. The county's new lawyer asked the judge to put me in jail (court record). While Lester Zitzelsberger was installing my hookup James Ecker came to inspect the installation. Then he told me how he bought Harold Pilling's farm. Lester Zitzelsberger laughed and said everything is all right now - Jim has inspected it. If I had complied with Leslie Rohl's wishes it would have cost me \$4,000.00 and the state \$6,000.00. \$10,000.00 was plumber Kenneth Suchan's estimate. Then the court made me hook on to the village sewer district line by state order. James Burnett, Mary Muellenbach, Village Board, James Arthur, James Ecker, and Leslie Rohl injected harassment to enhance their conspiracy to defraud some tax payers for the gain of others. Earl Ecker is a first cousin of James Ecker. James Ecker sold the sewer district the sand for the sewer lines. Earl Ecker got \$20.00 a foot west and south. Sunset Beach was \$15.00 a foot. I do not

know if there were other bids.

Elected officers and appointed officers must abide by the laws of the state and federal constitution and state statutes. These elected and appointed people are very confused about their authority. If these people were left to tax the agricultural land we would be helping to pay for a new sewage disposal plant. I believe the Department of Natural Resources has ordered an enlargement or a new plant. The Village of Stockbridge was built in a pot hole of quick sand which holds water. All the snow and rain water from the east drains through the village. Throughout the years successive village boards have closed up the drainage ditches. Water cannot get away, resulting in water in basements. I believe that it is pumped into the sewer lines, the sewage plant can not process it, and so it overflows into Lake Winnebago. The village board spent \$166,000 on State Highway 55, hoping that new storm sewers would eliminate this problem. The village board was asked to put in a mini storm sewer where they could pump basement waters. The cost was \$10.00 a foot. They did not put it in. The ordinance was implemented so that the farmers did not have to hook on to the municipal sewer. They have enough room for a mound system or a holding tank. The village board tried to divert their drainage water through the county storm sewer. This the county would not allow.

Sincerely yours,



L. Jesse Poppy
630 S. Military Road
Chilton, WI 53014

Signed this 23rd day March, 1995
Harold Jensen
12-15-96

Addition to March 1, 1993: March 12, 1995

Dwight J. and Carol A. Poppy: Their home is not serviced by municipal sewer or water. They were charged \$4000 for an unplatted lot that is in a flooded area that can not be filled. (Picture shown.) I am asking DNR to investigate.

Dorothy VandeHei was charged for a lot in the district, others not. This lot can not be serviced without a grinder pump of tunnel under State Highway 55 at a cost of \$6250. This 82.5 foot lot should be part of the serviced home until developed.

L. Jesse and Mildred C. Poppy own a farm which is comprised of two agricultural lots (131 and 132) with one resident. They were charged for two hook-ups. These hook-ups were called (sewer main) which is equivalent to \$8000. These are agricultural lots, not platted residential.

P.S. The Village of Stockbridge sewer commission has received \$1600 for one hook-up. Many platted lots have not been charged. The Village Board has passed an ordinance that back lots only pay \$1000 per hook-up, instead of \$4000.

Two homes, side by side, county highway E frontage:

Jeff Goeser, 1127 Lake Street, Chilton R1, WI - \$4000
414-439-1277

Steven Moehn, 1133 Lake Street, Chilton R1, WI - \$1000
414-439-1384

The Village Board and Sewer Commission have been ordered to put the sewer disposal plant in compliance by the DNR within 12 months, or the village will not be eligible for sewer extensions. Each violation is subject to \$10,000 a day by W. D. of Justice or U. S. E. P. A.

At a meeting for sewer David Sudgen, appointed member of Sewer Commission, stated that they are not going to raise the sewer tax which is \$15 a month. He also stated that they have \$150,000 in the fund. The Village Board has borrowed \$375,000 plus \$100,000 at interest, I believe for sewer extensions south and west.

I, L. Jesse Poppy, had asked for the sewer utility books through Attorney at Law Steven J. Frassetto. There was no reply. The reason that sewage was set up as a utility is that there are over 1100 agricultural acres in the Village of Stockbridge. It is very wrong to try and take advantage of low income agriculture.

Richard Van Hoorn is not serviced by water or sewage. He lives at 720 Hickory Hills Road, Chilton, WI. Farmer John Kurscheidt, 925 S. Lakeshore Drive, Chilton, WI was.

The Village of Stockbridge has had no water problem. The wells average 50' - 60' through 50' of Kewaunee soil or red clay. All

have very good water, and good water needs no chemical treatment.

There are 275 hook-ups. \$605,000

Deferred farm land assessments on cultivated crop land - 742
\$1,633,000

Also, some are in flooded areas.

The Village of Stockbridge has exceeded its debt limit. \$462,125

They need a new or revised sewage plant. Urgent!

Water they do not need.

New 4 room school not needed - consolidate with Chilton or Hilbert.

If the bonding company does not bond they will borrow from a private source - a private finance man was at the meetings.

I believe that Terry Wiseman, Stockbridge Public School Administrator, or James Ecker did not obtain a permit from the DNR for the sale of 25 acres to the school district as a play ground and an athletic field. 700 acres of agricultural crop land (treated with herbicides and insecticides) drain directly into the school athletic field and school property.

James Ecker sold the 25 acres to the school district. At the time of the sale, a member of the county planning committee, Rock Anderson, was investigating the sale. He was then moved up to head the eleven county planning district.

A survey was made in Illinois that where sprays are used, the chance of getting cancer is four times greater. WMAG - 8 March 1995.

It is wrong to jeprodize the lives of our children for the ill gotten gains of a few, when there is a remedy too. Better education (consolidation).

RICHLAND COUNTY FAIR
Judith C. Andresen
Fair Secretary
RR 3 Box 304
Richland Center, WI 53581

March 27, 1995

TO: ST. OF WI. JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

RE: PUBLIC HEARING - BUDGET 1995-97

THE RICHLAND COUNTY FAIR of Richland Center, Wisconsin, would like to go on record as being opposed to the County Fairs administration being changed to the State Fair. To list the major reasons for remaining with the Department of Agriculture with its current staff:

- 1) The ONLY thing County Fairs and WI State Fair has in common is the word "Fair". They don't want us and we need the marketing and promotional expertise available through the Dept. of Agriculture.
- 2) Smaller fairs like ours has nothing in common with State Fair. At the 1995 Fair Convention in Milwaukee I sat in on a seminar put on by the WI. State Fair. They do not begin to understand small fair vendor problems. Their rules and regulations in NO way can be applied to our small, rural, southwestern Wisconsin county fair.
- 3) Moving forward is supposed to be an asset - what is being proposed could bring our 133 year old fair to an end.

THE RICHLAND COUNTY FAIR of Richland Center, Wisconsin, would like to go on record as being in favor of reinstating the State Premium Aid at a level of not less than \$650,000.00.

- 1) We rely on large numbers of volunteer help. Volunteers are a valuable but not an unlimited resource in a small town.
- 2) Our small rural community is very supportive of our fair. Businesses support trophies, some rosettes, the printing costs of our Premium Book. They supply help and equipment for some of our events, set-up and clean-up needs. Being a small rural community our fair gets all the financial support this community and its businesses can afford.
- 3) Our community is proud of its 133 year old tradition - The Richland County Fair. Being proud of our fair and being able to find several thousand dollars more in a community already stretched to its limits in its ability to support the fair will put our fair in jeopardy.

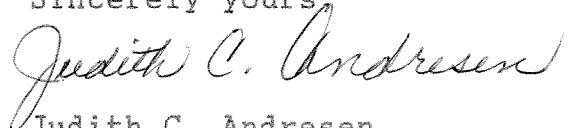
Page -2-

4) 650 4-H youth in addition to FFA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Jr. Holstein Assoc., Jr. Livestock Producers will all be affected. Funding supports not just the fair but the enthusiasm, self-esteem, and positive experience that fairs like ours can provide our youth, but not without help.

PLEASE SUPPORT BUDGET FUNDING OF NOT LESS THAN \$650,000.00

PLEASE SUPPORT COUNTY FAIRS REMAINING WITH THE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Sincerely yours,



Judith C. Andresen
Richland Co. Fair Secretary

cc: file



**DEWITT
ROSS & STEVENS^{sc}**
LAW FIRM

Capitol Square Office
Two East Mifflin Street
Suite 600
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FAX 608-252-9243
TEL 608-255-8891

West Office
Firststar Financial Centre
8000 Excelsior Drive, Suite 401
Madison, WI 53717-1914
FAX 608-831-2106
TEL 608-831-2100

March 27, 1995

Capitol Square Office

Joint Committee on Finance
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I served as Executive Secretary of the Judicial Council when it began in 1951 until 1955. I served as a Council member in the 1970's and on advisory committees to the Council on other occasions, most recently in the 1990's.

In the 1990's, as Chairman of the Supreme Court's Code of Judicial Ethics Review Committee for some years, I had occasion to work with the executive directors and some members of the Judicial Commission. Consequently, I believe that I have a good understanding of the function and operations of both agencies. About the only thing which they have in common is the word "judicial" in their titles.

It would be a serious mistake to place the Executive Secretary of the Council under another state employee. His orders come directly from the Council, which has always consisted of some of the ablest and most public spirited judges, lawyers and law professors in the state. Their collective background and experience in scholarship, practice and judgment provides an extremely valuable resource to the state at practically no cost.

The Council must have as an Executive Secretary to carry out its suggestions a lawyer well versed in practice and procedure of juvenile, probate, criminal and civil matters, capable of scholarly research, drafting of proposed legislative bills and court rules and presenting these proposals effectively to legislators, judges, the bar and the general public. The Council has such an Executive Secretary in Jim Fullin, who enjoys the confidence of the Council, legislators, judges and the bar. He is a self-starter, who needs no supervision other than the general directions given him by projects assigned to him by the Council. He should be directly responsible to the Council which employs and directs him.

DEWITT
ROSS & STEVENS

LAW FIRM

Joint Committee on Finance

March 27, 1995

Page 2

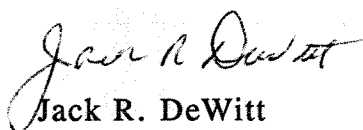
No money would be saved by consolidation with the commission. Fullin has exactly the same staff I started with in 1951 -- one secretary or administrative assistant. I needed a full time person in 1951 and he needs a full time person today.

I did not need another echelon of government between the Council and myself to boss me and neither does Fullin.

The Council's proposals in the past have saved the state a lot of money: making court jurisdiction and procedures uniform; making work loads of judges more equal; utilizing retired judges on a part-time basis to avoid creation of additional judgeships, etc. I believe the alternate dispute resolution, on which I worked with the Council recently will also create substantial savings.

The Council and its Executive Secretary, Jim Fullin, are great bargains for the state.

Sincerely,


Jack R. DeWitt

JRD:jch



NANCY SCHMELZER, CRB, CRS, GRI, President

WILLIAM MALKASIAN, CAE, Executive Vice President

TO: Members of the Joint Finance Committee
FROM: Michael Theo
Vice President for Public Affairs
DATE: March 27, 1995
RE: Assembly Bill 150 - Biennial State Budget Bill

YOUR
FUTURE
IS OUR
BUSINESS.

"The purpose
of the
Wisconsin
REALTORS®
Association
is to enhance
the success
of the
real estate
professional."

REALTOR® -- is a registered mark which identifies a professional in real estate who subscribes to a strict Code of Ethics as a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Position

The Wisconsin REALTORS Association (WRA) has been an ardent advocate for meaningful property tax relief for many years. Because AB 150 accomplishes this, the WRA supports AB 150.

With respect for the committee's time during these public hearings, we will confine our comments to this written testimony only.

Overview

Meaningful and lasting property tax relief can only be achieved if (a) local government spending is limited and (b) school funding is shifted from local property taxes to other tax sources. For these reasons, the WRA strongly supported the legislative efforts last session to cap local government spending, dramatically increase state school funding, and eventually shift two-thirds of school funding from the property tax to the state. Our support for this approach also included a strong belief that the shift in school funding could and should be accomplished without increasing general taxes at the state level.

While it is argued that AB 150 in fact raises some taxes, we believe those increases are overwhelmingly offset by the substantial property tax relief provided and the assurances that property taxes will remain under control because spending controls are made permanent.

Key Budget Objectives

While the legislature will undoubtedly amend portions of the governor's budget, we believe AB 150 correctly focuses on restructuring and downsizing government in order to increase support for public schools and lower property taxes. These key objectives of the governor's budget should remain in tact.

Conclusion

For far too long, Wisconsin has relied on property taxes to fund the bulk of public education. For far too long, this structure has placed an unfair and unsustainable tax burden on all property owners. As real estate professionals, we have seen first-hand the destructive effects this tax policy has had on housing affordability on both ends of the housing ladder - keeping the young from entering and elderly from staying. It is for these reasons that we supported the historic property tax legislation last session and why we strongly encourage you to finish the job this session.



DAIRY2020

Tom Lyon, Co-Chair
Cooperative Resources International

Timm Johnson, Co-Chair
Dairy Producer

Brenda Blanchard
Wisconsin Department of
Development

Bernard Easterday
UW School of Veterinary Medicine

Linda Hodorff
Dairy Producer

Daphne Holterman
Dairy Producer

Mike Krutza
Farm Credit Services

Gene Larsen
Dairy Producer

Larry Lemmenes
Alto Dairy Cooperative

Stephen McKeon
Roth Kase

Rod Nilsestuen
Wisconsin Federation of
Cooperatives

Joe Pagel
Dairy Producer

Carl Pulvermacher
Dairy Producer

Deb Reinhart
Dairy Producer

Bill Rockwell
Wisconsin Technical College System

John Rosenow
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Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
William J. McCoshen, Secretary

Dairy Industry at Crossroads

Dairying contributes \$17 billion per year to the state's economy, creating jobs for 196,000 people. Over 85% of the value of dairying comes from off-the-farm jobs in both our cities and rural communities. It is critical that we work together to meet competitive challenges from other areas of the country.

The Dairy 2020 Response

The Governor's Dairy 2020 Initiative responds to these challenges by bringing the dairy industry together to improve the business climate, foster innovative industry actions and increase opportunities for all of its sectors. Dairy 2020's goal is to "make Wisconsin the best place to produce and market milk."

The Governor's Dairy 2020 Budget Recommendations:

- ◆ **Director and coordination** -- Provide \$210,000 over the biennium for the dairy 2020 director position, supplies and statewide program coordination.
- ◆ **Study of farm assistance programs** -- Direct the Department of Development secretary to create a task force charged with determining the best ways to deliver existing state services and programs that provide assistance to farmers and the general agriculture community. The secretary is to make his recommendations to the governor by Nov. 1, 1995.
- ◆ **WHEDA Agribusiness Fund modification** -- Expand the definition of "new products and markets" under this loan guarantee program to include specialty cheeses and other dairy products not typically found in the US market.
- ◆ **One-stop Information Center** -- Provide \$38,700 over the biennium for a hotline and "dairy services manual" for dairy businesses seeking information on available public services -- educational, financial, and professional.
- ◆ **Farm Business Assessment Program** -- Provide \$54,700 to establish a farm business assessment center modeled on DOD's existing Manufacturing Assessment Center. This center would offer hands-on technical assistance and real-world information used by successful producers utilizing a variety of technical approaches to dairying.
- ◆ **Entry/Exit farmer program** -- Provide \$88,900 over the biennium to support activities that connect farmers leaving the dairy industry with those who wish to enter it. The goal is to decrease the number of dairy farmers selling their farms and/or business to non-dairy interests, as well as to help new farmers get started on the right foot.
- ◆ **Promoting Wisconsin for dairy business investment** -- Provide \$25,000 over the biennium for the development and distribution of promotional material to build enthusiasm for investment in Wisconsin's dairy industry. The target audience would be dairy businesses considering moving out-of-state and companies considering new investment and reinvestment in the dairy industry.

Dairy 2020 Target Objectives and Strategies:

Strengthen Industry Partnerships:

- ◆ Increasing state's awareness of dairy industry's economic impact.
- ◆ Increasing focus and action on key issues through the Dairy 2020 Council.
- ◆ Supporting dairy industry coordination and communications.
- ◆ Developing area councils as forums for local actions.

Foster the Wisconsin Dairy Business Climate:

- ◆ Conducting an industry business climate analysis and comparison.
- ◆ Establishing dairy benchmarks on financial database.
- ◆ Identifying and examining health insurance options.
- ◆ Preparing a business climate issues paper.

Develop innovative methods for retooling farms and facilitating industry transition:

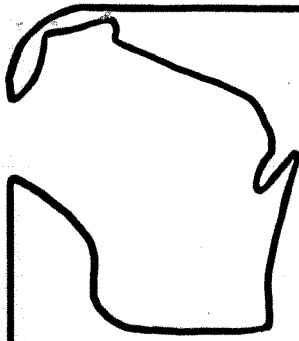
- ◆ Sponsoring local educational and service initiatives.
- ◆ Increasing emphasis on dairy business management education.
- ◆ Investigating options for improved educational delivery methods.

Increase Investment in the Dairy Industry:

- ◆ Supporting local community economic development initiatives.
- ◆ Promoting awareness/access to existing investment resources.
- ◆ Working with industry to develop innovative finance options.
- ◆ Creating a consortia of local communities for a statewide industry recruitment effort.

Supporting Dairy Marketing Efforts and Promotion:

- ◆ Supporting dairy policy and 1995 Farm Bill discussions.
- ◆ Providing increased support for international dairy marketing.
- ◆ Marketing education on forward contracting, and multiple component pricing.



ECONOMIC ISSUES

December 21, 1994
Number 127

Department of Agricultural Economics
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
University of Wisconsin-Madison

THE CONTRIBUTION OF DAIRY TO THE WISCONSIN ECONOMY

Steven Deller, Ann Roth and Edward V. Jesse

Introduction

After trending steadily upward for decades, Wisconsin milk production peaked in 1988 at 25 billion pounds. In 1993, the state's dairy herd produced just over 23 billion pounds. Wisconsin's share of U.S. milk production had declined from almost 18% in the early 1980's to 15% in 1993. In August 1993, California produced more milk than Wisconsin, and the gap has been persistently widening since.

While media attention concentrated on the loss of Wisconsin's bragging rights as the top dairy state, more serious concerns have been raised about the effect of declining milk production on the overall economy of the state. The dairy industry is much more than dairy farming. It supports a vast infrastructure of feed companies, farm and dairy equipment dealers, veterinarians, consultants, and other goods and services suppliers as well as an equally extensive marketing sector to transport and process the raw milk supplied by dairy farmers.

In reference to its economic impact, Wisconsin dairying has often been referred to as a "\$10 billion industry." Neither the origin nor the validity of that number is well-documented. In this issue of Economic Issues, we advance a more refined and detailed estimate of the dairy industry's contribution to Wisconsin's economy using an input-output modeling approach.

Background

Published data documenting the economic importance of dairying in Wisconsin are largely limited to the milk production and manufacturing sectors. The Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service (WASS) reports detailed statistics on dairy farming, including comprehensive price and revenue data. WASS also

reports volume information for Wisconsin dairy products, but not value-added data.

With respect to dairy on-farm production, WASS reported 28,641 dairy herds in the state on April 1, 1994. There were dairy farms licensed to sell milk in all but two of Wisconsin's 72 counties (Vilas and Menominee). Even Milwaukee county reported four dairy farms.

Milk cows and milk production in 1993 are shown by region of the state (WASS crop reporting districts) in Figure 1. Dairying is important throughout the state—there is no clear dairy belt within Wisconsin. However, cash receipts for milk as a percent of total farm cash receipts are larger in the northern two-thirds of the state. This reflects the expansion of the corn belt into southern Wisconsin and the comparative lack of good alternative farming opportunities to dairying in the North.

WASS reported a total of 243 dairy plants in Wisconsin in 1993. These plants produced a full range of dairy products, from American cheese to yogurt. But the bulk of Wisconsin's milk is converted to cheese (Figure 1).

There were 158 cheese plants in Wisconsin in 1993, producing nearly a third of all U.S. natural cheese. Cheddar and Mozzarella represented the most important varieties, but specialty cheeses are becoming increasingly important in the variety mix (Figure 3). Like milk production, cheese production is also widely dispersed throughout the state (Figure 4).

Much of Wisconsin's large cheddar cheese output is used for making various processed cheeses and cheese foods. The state produced 870 million pounds of processed cheese products in 1993, nearly 40% of the total U.S. volume.

Using 1991 data on industry output,¹ we estimate that the combined total revenues generated by the dairy on-farm production and dairy processing sectors was indeed approximately \$10 billion. Of this total, about \$3.4 billion was in the value of milk and other dairy-related income from dairy farms and \$6.6 billion was revenue from the sale of dairy value-added products.

This \$10 billion direct contribution of dairying represented 5% of Wisconsin Gross State Product, the total output from all sectors of Wisconsin's economy. Dairy accounted for 58,000 jobs, or 2% of total state employment, and nearly \$1.2 billion in income, 1.3% of total Wisconsin income.² Differences in the relative importance of these measures of economic activity (industry output, 5%; employment, 2%; income, 1%) are related to the high output per worker, especially in cheese production, and generally low wages, mostly in dairy farming where non-wage perquisites are common.

The relative contributions of dairying are considerably greater on the basis of comparison to other agricultural production and food processing activities. In 1991, dairy farm output represented about one-half of total farm output. Industry output from dairy processing was about 38% of total food and related manufacturing output in the state.

Given the absolute and relative importance of the dairy industry in Wisconsin and that its economic impact is broadly dispersed throughout the state, there is ample reason for concern about recent declines in milk production and even larger losses in market shares for milk and cheese. Dairy on-farm production dominates Wisconsin agriculture and is a major contributor to the state's food processing sector. Less milk means less farm income, fewer farm jobs, and a smaller source of in-state supply for Wisconsin's mammoth cheese manufacturing industry.

Authors are, Assistant Professor and Community Development Specialist, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension; Policy Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; and Professor of Agricultural Economics and Associate Dean for Extension, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison. We acknowledge with thanks the assistance of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in the printing and distribution of this article. Any errors are the sole responsibility of the authors.

FIGURE 1. WISCONSIN MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION BY DISTRICT, 1993.

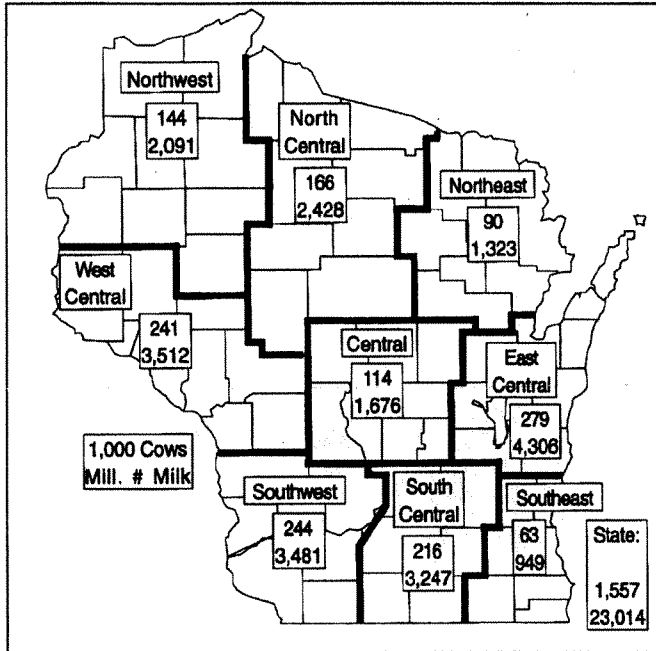
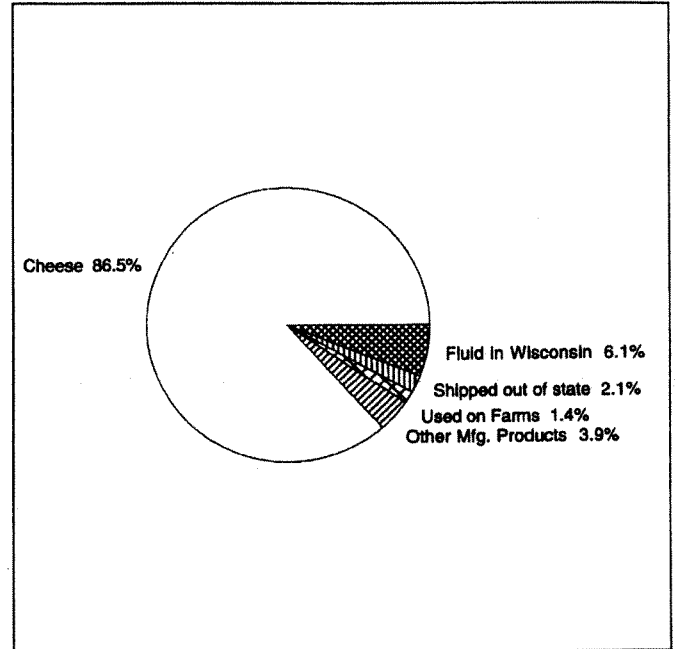


FIGURE 2: UTILIZATION OF WISCONSIN MILK, 1993.



Source: Wisconsin Dairy Facts, 1994.

FIGURE 3: WISCONSIN CHEESE PRODUCTION, 1993.

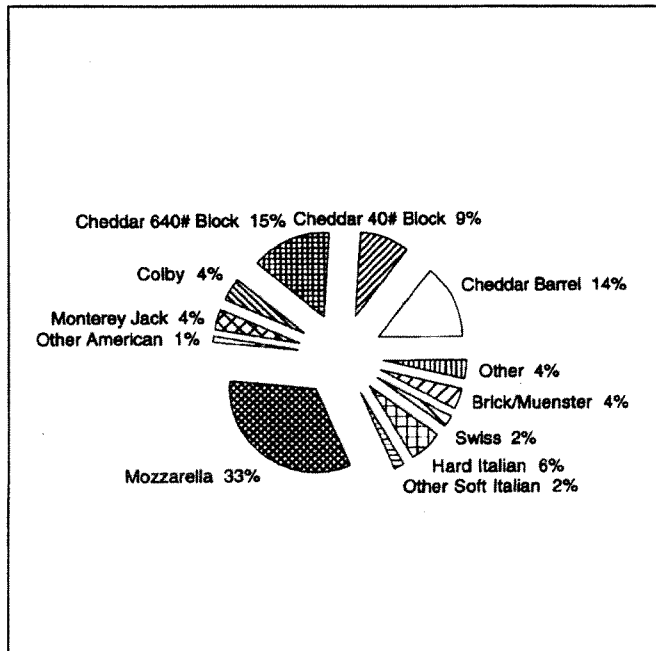
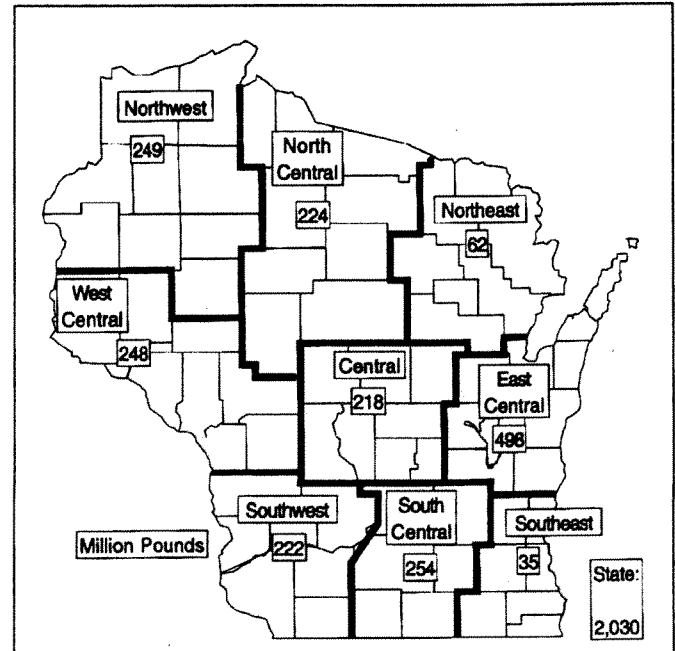


FIGURE 4: WISCONSIN CHEESE PRODUCTION BY DISTRICT, 1993.



Source: Wisconsin Dairy Facts, 1994.

Linkages

The large direct contribution of dairying to the Wisconsin economy is only part of the picture. Other industries are linked, directly and indirectly, to the dairy industry. These industries represent additional sources of economic activity, multiplying the effects of the direct activity of dairy production and processing. The dairy industry uses machinery, trucks, fuel, financial services and other inputs from local industries to conduct its daily operations. These economic linkages create a network of interdependent industries, which, in turn, generate additional jobs and income in non-dairy industries. The income generated directly by dairy also adds to this interdependency; dairy employees spend their income on groceries, housing, entertainment, and other consumer goods and services. In turn, employees in these industries spend their income on consumer goods and services. These additional linkages help to further form the complex intertwining of industries within Wisconsin. The relevant question to ask then is not what dairy contributes to the Wisconsin economy directly, but rather how much does dairy contribute to the Wisconsin economy through this complex networking of industries?

To answer this question it is necessary to develop an empirical representation of the Wisconsin economy. While there are numerous methods of regional analysis which can capture these linkages, the method adopted for this study is input-output analysis. An input-output model of a regional economy (in this case Wisconsin) can be described as a "snapshot" of the economy detailing the sales and purchases of goods and services between all sectors of the economy for a given period of time. Industry output (sales) can be purchased by other industries as inputs, households for final consumption, or exported outside of the region (again in this case, Wisconsin). Industry inputs (purchases) are either from other industries within the region, are purchased from households (labor), or imported from outside the region. The input-output model allows these linkages to be described empirically. By examining expenditures by and for the dairy industry, an assessment of the importance of the dairy industry to Wisconsin's economy can be gained. This study, Micro-IMPLAN (Impact PLANning) is used to create the input-output model for the Wisconsin economy.³ All figures are for 1991 and reflect the most current year.

Empirical Analysis

For the purposes of this study, we have defined "dairy" to include: dairy farm production, and the manufacturing and processing industries for butter, natural and processed cheese, condensed and evaporated milk, ice cream and frozen desserts as well as fluid milk.² Therefore, this analysis includes both on-farm production as well as immediate value-added industries. This is an important aspect to this study because it allows us to talk of dairy in the broadest sense and to discuss future directions of dairy policy in a more complete forum.

Two types of analysis are reported. First, we dissect the nature of dairy's contribution to the Wisconsin economy into direct, indirect, and induced effects. The direct effect is the contribution of dairy to the state economy *without* accounting for economic linkages. An indirect effect measures the contribution to the economy from the purchase of inputs used to produce dairy products. For example, the indirect effect captures the level of trucking and electric services used in dairy production. The induced effect captures the contribution of dairy labor spending income within the economy on goods and services. The total effect is simply the sum of the direct, indirect and induced effects. The indirect and induced effects are commonly referred to as the "multiplier effect." For our purposes, the total effect is the level of economic activity that is attributed to dairy as we have defined it. The second type of analysis reported distributes the total effects over the different industries modeled for Wisconsin. For reporting considerations, we have aggregated the results into ten sectors.

Based on the Micro-IMPLAN analysis, dairy as we have defined it, contributes about \$17 billion to the state's economy, as measured by total industry output, after accounting for all economic linkages (Table 1). This represents about 9.3% of total industry output for Wisconsin. Dairy also contributes over \$5 billion to income, or 5.8% of all income generated in Wisconsin. Employment generated by dairy is about 190,000 jobs, which is about 6.7% of the state total.²

It is important to note that we *cannot* interpret these numbers to say if dairy ceased to exist, the Wisconsin economy would be negatively affected at these levels. Such an interpretation assumes that all 190,000 workers affected, along with their families, would leave the state. We would also need to assume that all other inputs, land and capital, would not be used for any other productive activity. Such an assumption is unrealistic. Rather, the correct interpretation is that dairy contributes to the state's economy, directly and through the multiplier effect, by the amounts reported in Table 1.

Further examination of the information reported in Table 1 reveals that the induced effect contributes significantly (24%) to the total contribution. Approximately one-fourth of dairy's contribution to the Wisconsin economy is through the labor income that is generated through the direct and indirect effects. In other words, the income that is spent on consumer goods and services by farmers, cheese makers, and all the workers that are indirectly linked to dairy plays a significant role in the state's economy.

Examination of the contribution of dairy to Wisconsin distributed across different sectors reveals several important points (Table 2). First, the Wisconsin economy is extremely intertwined and interdependent; nearly every sector in Wisconsin is linked, either indirectly or through induced relationships, to dairy. Fully 40% of the contribution of dairy on Wisconsin's output and 75% of the contri-

bution to income are from sectors other than farming and agricultural processing sectors.

Second, some sectors are impacted to a larger extent than might be expected. Trade, which includes retail and wholesale trade industries, finance, insurance and real estate (F.I.R.E.) and the service industries are heavily impacted, almost entirely by the induced effect of dairy. The industries in these sectors are affected by dairy due to the income that is being spent on consumer goods and services by dairy farmers and employees of the dairy value-added industries. The employment impacts for these sectors, particularly trade and services, must be interpreted carefully since no distinction is made between full-time and part-time employment. Given the nature of employment in these two sectors and considering the number of jobs relative to income generated, it would be safe to conclude that many of these jobs are part-time. The government sector is impacted not so much through revenues generated by the level of economic activity reported, but by services provided by government to the affected industries such as health inspections and agricultural extension services.

Third, the immediate value-added industries, in particular cheese production, contribute nearly 85% more to total industry output than does on-farm production and nearly 40% more to income. The implication is that dairy value-added industries have a much greater effect on the Wisconsin economy than on-farm production. Of course, on-farm and value-added production are mutually dependent upon each other and any public policies targeting dairy must treat the industry in a comprehensive manner.

Conclusions

The Wisconsin dairy industry has often been called a \$10 billion industry. That number accurately represents the direct contribution of dairy farming and dairy manufacturing. But \$10 billion is only about half of the story. Our estimates show that dairy contributes about \$17 billion to Wisconsin's economic output when dairy's linkages with other industries are considered. Dairy directly contributed about \$1.2 billion to income, and an additional \$3.9 billion through its multiplier effect. Over 190,000 full and part-time jobs are attributable to the presence of milk production and dairy processing in the state, two-thirds of which were outside the farming and agri-processing sectors.

When discussing potential policies targeting dairy it is important not to be drawn into a "chicken-and-egg" type of debate between the relative importance of on-farm and value-added production. Clearly a weak on-farm industry will put the value-added industries at risk and a weak value-added industry will place on-farm production at risk. But, in light of the analysis reported here, the dominating role of cheese production in dairy provides direction to how future policy discussions might be focused.

Table 1. Contribution of Dairy to the Wisconsin Economy (1991)

Type of Effect	Total Industry Output (million \$)	Income (million \$)	Employment (No. of Jobs)
Direct	\$9,857	\$1,191	58,032
Indirect	3,202	1,655	46,843
Induced	4,138	2,304	85,463
TOTAL	\$17,197	\$5,150	190,338

Table 2. Distribution of Dairy's Contribution to the Wisconsin Economy (1991)

Industry	Total Industry Output (million \$)	Income (million \$)	Employment (No. of Jobs)
Farming	\$3,576	\$537	44,303
Forest/Fishing/Ag. Services	80	35	2,139
Construction	191	112	3,739
Ag. Processing	6,651	753	18,126
Manufacturing	940	381	8,467
Trade	1,258	794	41,049
F.I.R.E.	1,472	839	15,314
Trans, Comm & Utilities	1,192	616	11,609
Services	1,669	997	43,467
Government	166	86	2,122

Note: Column sums may not match Table 1 totals due to rounding. F.I.R.E.: Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate.

SOURCES OF DATA

When conducting an economic impact assessment such as the one reported here, one must be sensitive to the data upon which the analysis is based. For this study we have used two very different sources of data; the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistical Service (WASS) and the Micro-IMPLAN database. The WASS produces numerous reports detailing agriculture in Wisconsin and is a popular source of information. While much of WASS data is extremely specific, such as current milk prices, the majority of industry level data is based on surveys of a limited number of firms. The value of milk produced for a given year, for example, is an estimate based on the survey. The agricultural component of the Micro-IMPLAN database is built upon the 1987 Census of Agriculture. The 1987 figures are updated using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics producer price indices and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis annual farm revenue estimates. A second problem is inconsistencies in industry definitions; WASS and Micro-IMPLAN do not define dairy farm products the same. Therefore, for any given year, WASS and Micro-IMPLAN estimates of industry output will differ. For internal modeling consistencies we have elected to use the Micro-IMPLAN database for the impact analysis reported here.

ENDNOTES

- ^{1/} Here industry output is defined as the dollar value of all production (total revenue) for an industry during the year.
- ^{2/} Income includes wages and salaries and income from self-employment.
- ^{3/} Micro-IMPLAN is a 528 sector modeling system and data base developed by the US Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Wisconsin model used here has 462 industries (Wisconsin does not have activity in all 528 IMPLAN sectors, for example, there is no guided missile industry in Wisconsin). Although no model is perfect, Micro-IMPLAN is superior to most other methods due to the detail of its data. For a more detailed discussion of the regional economic modeling approach adapted for this study, please see *Regional Economic Models for the State of Wisconsin: An Application of the Micro-IMPLAN Modeling System*, by Steven C. Deller, N.R. Sumathi, and David Marcouiller. Center for Community Economic Development, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension. Staff Paper 93.6. November, 1993.
- ^{4/} Note that these specific industries are aligned with the industrial specification of Micro-IMPLAN.
- ^{5/} Employment is measured in terms of number of jobs. No distinction is made between full-time and part-time jobs. This distinction is important when assessing the impact of dairy on the trade and service sectors where the majority of the jobs are part-time.

This is a periodical on public policy issues. The views expressed are those of the authors. We welcome your comments and your response if you get duplicate copies, need an address correction, or wish to be removed from the mailing list. Send the mailing panel to Professor William Sauppe, Department of Agricultural Economics, 427 Lorch Street, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 53706. This publication is supported by the Research Division, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison and by the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service. UW-Madison and UW-Extension provide equal opportunities in employment, admissions and programming. Typeset by Karen J. Dent.

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Ladies & Gentlemen:

Thank you for allowing me to visit with you today about the Governor's initiative for funding for Dairy 2020. Wisconsin has long been known as the dairy state, but recent years have seen an alarming decline in the number of farms and dairy production in Wisconsin.

This is an industry that is extremely important to the overall economy of Wisconsin. The dairy industry today contributes about \$17 billion to the states economy as measured by total industry output. It also generates 190,000 jobs. To put that in perspective, those totals represent 9.3% of the total economic output of this state and 6.7% of the total jobs in this state. We are not talking about a support program just for farmers, but rather supporting the entire economy of Wisconsin.

The problem the dairy industry faces is one of age and transition. Our facilities are 70 to 80 years old. They need to be rebuilt. Farmers need help in planning for this retooling process. The Dairy 2020 initiative provides that help.

M&I Bank of Cambridge
102 Main St/ Cambridge WI 53523/Tel 608 423-3241

Dwaine R. Sievers
President

A.C.E.

March 27, 1995

TO: Members of the Joint Finance Committee

FROM: Sally Drew, President, Association of Career Employees

The Association of Career Employees represents a group of active and retired state employees who have invested a great deal of effort in assuring that Wisconsin state government provides valuable services to citizens, functions openly, operates according to the highest ethical standards, and maintains Wisconsin's tradition of clean government.

The Association has a number of major concerns about this budget proposal.

Destruction of civil service system

The budget represents a major expansion of patronage in the employment of state workers at all levels and creates the opportunity for politicization of major sensitive state services. While ACE members would also recommend a review of personnel policies and procedures in areas such as hiring and firing, we do not condone the wholesale destruction of the civil service system. The following provisions are of great concern to ACE.

Removal of 1,214 employees in the Department of Revenue and 126 positions in the Department of Regulation and Licensing from civil service, collective bargaining, and whistleblower protection.

The removal of the Department of Natural Resource's District Directors from civil service. (The language of another section of the budget appears to give all agency secretaries similar authority to remove their field directors from civil service as well).

The removal of chief legal counsel of the new Department of Financial institutions from civil service.

Elimination of the present law which states that an employee with permanent status in the classified service cannot be terminated without just cause even if the position occupied is changed to the unclassified service.

Reduction in employees legal right to bring suit against the state.

Decrease in citizen involvement

The budget also appears to potentially eliminate citizen involvement from much of government decision making. ACE is concerned about the proposals in the following areas.

The elimination of policy boards at DNR and Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection and making secretaries direct appointees of the governor.

Agency policy will be made in private rather than at open public meetings.

Division administrators who are now career employees will be replaced by appointees with little professional experience.

Career employees within these agencies will become aware of increasing political considerations in administration of their programs.

The elimination of duties of the elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the reorganization of the department under an appointed position.

The sunseting of 180 commissions, boards, and councils, including the Employee Trust Fund Board.

The majority of these boards provide citizens a valuable opportunity to be involved in government policy setting and provide an opportunity for agency employees to hear from the people they serve.

There seems little justification for including the ETF Board which is the governing board of an agency. This seems like a veiled move by the Governor to eliminate this Board and take direct control of management, policy, and operations. We don't need politics in the State's retirement system.

Massive reorganization without corresponding service or cost benefits

Many of the following reorganization proposals seem to have more political benefit than demonstrated service or cost savings benefits.

The proposed new Department of Commerce which will include regulatory functions such as building safety and underground storage tanks.

The movement of job training functions from DHSS to DILHR.

The proposed Department of Tourism.

Transfer of consumer protection programs from Justice to Agriculture Trade, and Consumer Protection.

The consolidation of "information technology" within the Department of Administration.

Transfer of functions and staff of the State Treasurer to DOA.

Transfer of Engineering functions from the Department of Corrections and the University to DOA.

Creation of a new Wisconsin Employment Commission.

Privatizing of the Gaming Commission.

TESTIMONY FOR JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING
March 27, 1995

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Joint Finance Committee:

My name is Carolyn Stoner and I am the Agency Administrator for the Cooperative Educational Service Agency #2. My comments are in regard to the proposed CESA restructuring.

The CESA Administrators of Wisconsin are very pleased that the Governor included CESAs in his budget proposal and also with his recognition of the role that our organization can play in school improvement.

The CESA Administrators also commend the Legislature for requiring that a study be conducted assessing the role of CESAs. The CESA Study Committee, co-chaired by State Senator Dale Schultz and State Representative Richard Grobschmidt, had representation from several different groups in both the public and private sectors. That study focused on the mission, governance, authority, and financing of CESAs.

Although I view all of the committee recommendations on pages 5-12 important in establishing CESAs role in school improvement, I will only highlight a few critical elements as follows:

A. CESA Mission--Expand CESA mission to include leadership, coordination, and the provision of direct and indirect services to school districts and post secondary institutions.

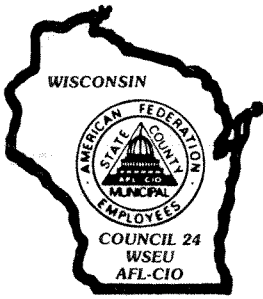
B. CESA Governance--Governance vested in board of control that should govern itself according to bylaws established at the annual convention.

C. CESA Authority--Expand authority in terms of the type of organizations that may serve and types of services they may provide.

D. CESA Boundaries--Keep the boundaries as they currently are drawn as they address and support the geography, number of districts involved, the mix of those districts, as well as present customer relations, all of which affect program delivery and student programming. However, if change is recommended to address current initiatives, the CESA Administrators would request that this issue be given additional study.

The CESA Administrators look forward to working with you as we continue to help our school districts provide a cost effective and quality education to the students in the State of Wisconsin.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you.



Martin Beil
Executive Director

AFSCME Council 24 AFL-CIO WISCONSIN STATE EMPLOYEES UNION

The Union That Cares

8033 Excelsior Drive, Suite C, Madison, WI 53717

Phone (608) 836-0024

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Gary Lonzo
President

TESTIMONY OF MARTIN BEIL BEFORE THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE MARCH 27, 1995

I would like to thank the co-chairs and members of the committee for the opportunity to share some concerns and insights regarding the State budget. Although the budget as proposed is ambitious, problematic, and fraught with many hazards, I would like to spend my time today focusing on three general areas of great concern to the members we represent.

The first is the reorganization of the U.W. Hospital and Clinics into a public benefit authority. The current proposal restructures the entire University Hospital because of a need to be "flexible" in the market place. This flexibility is undefined and thrown about as a panacea for potential health care problems. I think its important to think about the known quantity we have now. According to the July 1993 U.S. News & World Report, the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, when compared to tertiary care hospitals throughout the region and the country, ranked in the top 5% as it relates to speciality health care delivery - obviously top of the line and successful in the market place. A review of FY 94 financial reports, filed with the Office of Health Care Information, reveals a strong net income position (revenue and gains in excess of expenses and losses) of \$23,299,989.00. Obviously a financially sound player in the market place.

What about competitiveness in the market place? That's where we think things get a little problematic. The Hospital's current mission is teaching, research, tertiary care and indigent care. According to the FY 93 Guide to Wisconsin Hospitals, we find the UWH&C above the rest of the South Central Wisconsin market place in price. Approximately 25% above the market place. That would make sense given their multi-faceted mission. The Superintendent of the UW Hospital, Gordon Derzon, has publicly stated that the UWH&C must be price competitive in the market place. To do that, one or more of the components in their mission will be at risk. What I am saying in a long way is that there has not been a case made or experience to warrant such a massive change for the sole purpose of flexibility. That is not to say that organizationally, internally there are not problems, but you don't address those problems by cutting loose and removing responsibility and accountability. None of us can gamble on the future of this tremendous Wisconsin asset. The UW Hospital & Clinics, as currently organized allows the representatives of the public and taxpayers a voice in its operation and mission. Don't let the University duck its responsibility by writing them a blank check. Let's force them to work within the system and continue to be a world-class leader in health care.

Funding

The second issue I would generally address is the issue of funding significant state operations. AB 150 contains a proposal to move already existing juvenile facilities to the Department of Corrections with only 2/3 of the staff going over with the move. One-third of the staff is being retained in H&SS to open a new juvenile facility. Ethan Allen and Lincoln Hills are currently well over capacity in population and current staffing patterns are minimal and place all at risk. If we need a new juvenile institution for "poor, misunderstood" pre-teens and teens then let's not rob Peter to pay Paul. There will be no appreciable decline in populations at LHS and EAS, and the decline if at all, will only be short-lived. We need every position currently in place, plus some if we are to provide secure, safe and effective environments at Lincoln Hills and Ethan Allen. Let H&SS come back before you after the passage of the pending juvenile code and statutory revisions and present a separate staffing request for any new institution. We can't run secure facilities on the cheap.

The Department of Corrections line item calls for the closing of 12 towers at adult institutions saving approximately \$1.2 million. With our adult population over 10,000 and every one of our facilities well over a 100% capacity, can we afford to cheat on security? These towers not only provide internal security but also serve as a very visible tool of external security. Each and every one of our correctional institutions enter into either an agreement or an understanding with their surrounding communities that assures safety, security and protection. This initiative breaks that compact, not to mention the incredible loss of security that those who work inside those walls will experience.

The line item that deals with the Centers for Developmentally Disabled also contains a dangerous proposal. In Section 2955 through 2957 there is a proposal to quadruple the "cut back rate". If adopted as proposed, we could see a dramatic negative impact on mandated staffing levels. The instant budgetary impact of a community placement would probably negatively effect our compliance with the Federal Health Care Finance Authority and potentially effect the federal Medicare funding for those institutions. Can we afford that? We say no!

Privatization

AB 150 also has several initiatives either related to privatization or reorganization that I would like to briefly address.

Privatization of the state lottery and its functions is just bad public policy. There is certainly a public perception with some grains of truth regarding gambling and linkages with organized crime. State operated and authorized gaming must be absolutely above any and all suspicion. The only way to enhance the public trust and guarantee that the citizens do not become victims is for the State to operate and strictly control all gaming functions. It is not worth our integrity to do anything else.

Privatization also creeps in to the Department of Corrections budget where the proposal is made to contract out probation supervision of all misdemeanor supervision. This experiment is being tried in Colorado and Minnesota and is not receiving high marks. Once the state has transferred supervision authority to a private vendor, we have really lost control over the program. No longer will professional career public employees provide the service, but some unknown quantity of temporary "babysitters" will make decisions and carry out activities that could have dramatic impact on the public safety and security of our communities. What public pressure will be brought to bear on "Bob's Probation Service" when an unsupervised misdemeanor becomes involved in a high profile crime because of inadequate supervision, monitoring and treatment.

The public pressure will come directly on legislators and other elected officials. Let's not dismantle an effective, professional, responsive system. The few dollars saved by paying minimum wages to the contractor will not offset the impact on public confidence and sense of security that citizens deserve.

The final contracting out issue deals with prison industries taking over the laundry operations at Central Wisconsin Center. This clearly is without merit. The Division of Care and Treatment Facilities had reviewed all of its operations within the institutions and specifically prepared a proposal which would merge the laundry at Central Center and Mendota. In 1994 you spent \$125,000 remodeling the Central Center laundry to enable this shared service. The cost of Central doing the laundry is 23 cents per pound. The cost of prison industries doing the laundry is somewhere between 26 - 28 cents per pound, not including the extra amount of bedding, toweling, etc. needed because of the longer turn around time by prison industries. This isn't cheaper, this is at least \$300,000 more expensive. Why would we want to do this when the current operation is effective, economical and efficient? What do we gain?

Reorganization

Throughout the budget we find a multitude of areas in state government that are being reorganized. I would like to clearly state that our members welcome change. In fact a survey conducted in October of 1994 by the SAVE Commission demonstrated that overwhelmingly state employees felt change and reorganization was good and endorsed it. The problem we see in the budget is that this change or reorganization for the most part is by "fiat" rather than involvement. Who knows the efficiencies, kinks in the system, and customers' concerns better than the front line workers. They bring real value to this process. We need to learn a lesson from the private sector. The ongoing changes in successful businesses dealing with the global economy are driven by initiatives such as "high performance work places" or quality initiatives. At the very root of these successful programs is employee involvement or partnerships. Successful industries deal with their employees as valuable assets rather than mindless children. If government is going to adjust to the 21st century and meet the needs of the taxpayers it will only happen if the public employee is a full participant. If the legislature is

3/27/95 Testimony of Martin Beil
Before Joint Finance Committee
Page Four

really interested in reorganization and improved service delivery, then let's model ourselves after John Deere, Harley Davidson, Saturn, Johnsonville Meats, Johnson Control, G.E. Medical Systems. Let's empower state employees, let them rise to the challenge, encourage risk and treat them as assets.

We feel that we are on the threshold of change. Let's not squander the opportunity by mindless, bureaucratic shifts and shuffles emanating from some bureaucratic "ivory tower". We are ready to be full partners - are you?

On behalf of the 25,000 state employees we represent we would strongly urge you to consider the budget initiatives from the perspective of the workers. We hope you will make the necessary changes and we are prepared to work with this committee, or any other committee or legislator to effect meaningful and productive change. Please feel free to contact us.

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To: The Joint Finance Committee

March 27, 1995

I wish to express my opposition to any bailout of the dog tracks. My memory is good enough to recall the promise of tax-relief when the tracks opened.

I also wish to express my opposition to any weakening of the protection of the dogs themselves.

Thank you.

Helene L. Dwyer

2918 Nottingham Way

Madison, WI 53713



Independent Business Association of Wisconsin

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Legislative Affairs Counsel
Anthony H. Driessen

Executive Director
Mel Mitchell

Member
National Small Business United
Washington, D.C.

March 27, 1995

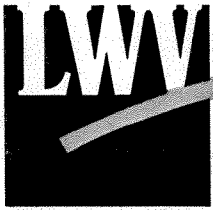
To: Joint Finance Committee
Senate Chair, Senator Leean; Senators Weeden, Farrow, Cowles,
Schultz, Panzer, George, Chvala
Assembly Chair, Representative Brancel; Representatives Foti,
Ourada, Harsdorf, Porter, Schneiders, Linton, Coggs
From: Carol Ann Schneider, President
Independent Business Association of Wisconsin
Re: SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR TOMMY THOMPSON'S
BUDGET

Wisconsin Taxpayers Demand Tax Relief!

The Independent Business Association of Wisconsin, representing over 700 small business owners who employ over 17,000 Wisconsin workers, urges you to support Governor Tommy Thompson's Budget, because it accomplishes four key objectives:

- Restructures and Downsizes State Government
Increases State Support for Public Schools
Reduce Property Taxes
Hold the Line on State Taxes

IBA members believe that the Governor's Budget is a much needed, step in the right direction toward spending cuts and downsizing state government. We urge you to support this budget because it represents the largest property tax reduction in history...without a general increase in sales or income taxes!



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN, INC.

122 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2500 608-256-0827 FAX 608-256-2853

STATEMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Madison, Wisconsin
March 27, 1995

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is concerned about proposed budget cuts that would affect many of the State's boards, commissions, and councils. While some of them would be completely eliminated, it appears that the budget of others would be so reduced as to destroy their effectiveness. These boards, commissions, and councils may not have large constituencies but most of them play key roles in keeping Wisconsin government honest and efficient. They also ensure wide participation of citizens in the public affairs of this state.

We cite the Wisconsin Women's Council as a case in point. The Council operates with appointed legislators and citizens who direct a staff of two-and-a-half paid employees— that is an executive director, an administrative assistant and a half-time secretary. The proposed state budget would eliminate all but the Council's executive director. The present \$150,000 would be reduced to \$91,000.

Is it the intention of the governor and the legislature to eliminate the Women's Council? If so, we object, and we cite the Council's effectiveness in improving the business environment for women, in working with state agencies to improve their services to women and families, and in gathering information and publishing it on matters of significance to women.

But if elimination is not the intent, it is surely unwise to fail to provide enough staff to enable the Council to carry out its functions effectively.

Another case in point involves the administration of justice. One of its many facets is the Sentencing Commission whose function is to classify crimes and their respective penalties and so to reduce the disparity in sentences that could occur among the various courts. Its five-person staff also develops guidelines to satisfy the public's demand that the most dangerous and habitual prisoners receive the harshest sentences. There has been no question about the agency's effectiveness, but the budget proposal would eliminate the Commission.

More than half the states have sentencing commissions, and others are in the process of instituting them. No state has abolished such a commission. The budget for the Wisconsin Sentencing Commission is one of the smallest in the nation.

We do not believe that Wisconsin, in its effort to cut costs, should sacrifice this effective, low-cost means of assuring fairness in sentencing in our state.

The League of Women Voters is not able to review all the items in the budget to find similar cuts, but we have noted several more that concern us, namely the Judicial Council, the Privacy Council, and the Parole Commission. We urge you to give careful consideration to the value we all receive from these units.

Finally, the League wishes to raise a note of caution in regard to the proposal to transfer the Educational Communications Board's broadcasting capabilities to the Department of Administration. The focus of Wisconsin's public broadcasting has been and continues to be educational and informational. Its partnership with our education

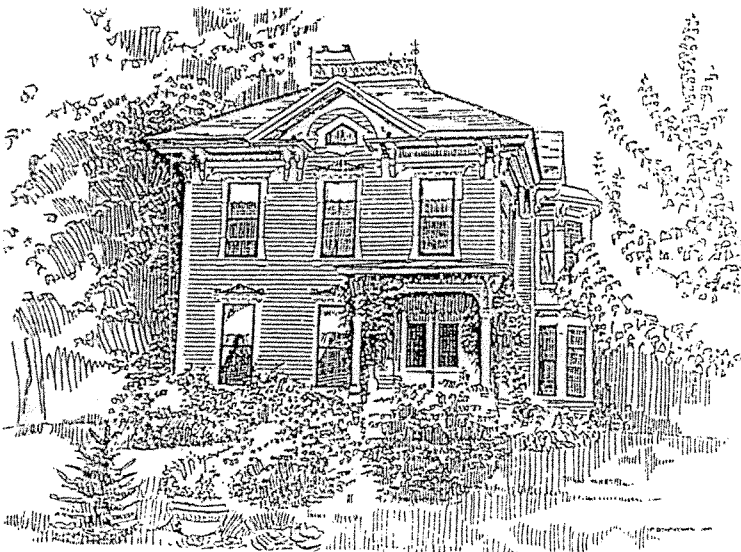
The League depends on public support for its work.

Your contributions, unless given to the Education Fund, are not tax deductible for charitable purposes.

institutions has resulted in a valuable service being available to all areas of our state.

Will transfer of broadcasting responsibilities to a governmental administrative agency lessen the emphasis on the educational elements? Will budgetary tensions arise when programs needs require expenditures for equipment expansion? Will this type of transfer be beneficial or detrimental to our citizens' right to know.

We ask careful consideration of these matters. We would not want the effort to reduce taxes to result in the destruction of our state's valuable assets.



JEFF & JO HOLUBOWICZ

W11297 HY 33

RANDOLPH, WI 53956

414-928-2724

Chairman Brauncel,
DEAR WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS.

3-27-95

I AM SUBMITTING THIS TESTIMONY ON THE 1995-1997 WISCONSIN BUDGET PROPOSED IN AB-150.

I BELIEVE THE BASIC TENANTS OF FISCAL SOUNDNESS, OR NOT SPENDING MORE THAN REVENUES TAKEN IN, MUST BE ADHERED TO. GOVERNMENT IS NO DIFFERENT THAN A MODERN BUSINESS, AND WE CANNOT ALLOW A STATE TO LEAD TO BANKRUPTCY LIKE ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. I ALSO DON'T BELIEVE THAT WISCONSIN SHOULD BORROW INTO THE FUTURE TO PAY FOR THIS BUDGET OR ANY OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS SUCH AS PRISON CONSTRUCTION. I AM VERY CONCERNED HOWEVER, THAT TOO MANY POLICY ITEMS HAVE BEEN SHIFTED INTO THIS BUDGET PROCESS WHICH IS A DOUBLE WHAMMY ATTACK ON THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN THIS STATE. THE FIRST HIT ON DEMOCRACY COMES WHEN POLICY ITEMS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS MASSIVE BUDGET BILL WHICH DOES NOT COME UNDER THE SAME PUBLIC SCRUTINY AS SEPARATE LEGISLATION ALLOWS THROUGH COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND A FULL LEGISLATIVE VOTE.

THE SECOND AFFRONT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IS THE AUDACIOUS PROPOSALS TO REMOVE THE POWER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT WITHOUT PROCEEDING FIRST WITH A "WE THE PEOPLE" REFERENDUM ON AN ELECTION DAY AS REQUIRED BY CONSTITUTION. THE SAME CONCEPT GOES FOR THE STATE TREASURER AND SECRETARY OF STATE, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME MERIT FOR FISCAL SAVINGS IN THESE AREAS. HOWEVER, THE RATIONALE FOR DILUTING DPI DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE FISCAL, BUT RATHER HOSTILE VINDICTIVENESS FROM THE POLITICAL PROCESS. IF THE GOVERNOR, AND THE LEGISLATURE REALLY WANT TO INCLUDE POLICY LANGUAGE IN THE BUDGET, HOW ABOUT TRUE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ?

REDUCING THE OPEN AND PUBLIC VOICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENTS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL BOARDS IS ALSO AN ASSAULT ON THE DEMOCRATIC AND PLURALISTIC PROCESS THAT I ALSO OPPOSE.

I AM A STATE EMPLOYEE WHO HAS WORKED FOR PRISON INDUSTRY (BADGER STATE INDUSTRY) FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS IN THE WAUPUN AREA. TODAY I AM A SUPERVISOR WITHIN THE DISTRIBUTION AREA OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. BECAUSE OF POOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES IN CORRECTIONS IN THE PAST I LOBBIED HARD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT AND IN THAT PROCESS I BECAME INVOLVED IN THE WSEU UNION AS THE WAUPUN PRISON UNION PRESIDENT AND WSEU COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER TO INFLUENCE THE EMPLOYER'S ATTITUDE AND LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY.

I AM ALSO A BOARD MEMBER OF ACE (ASSOCIATION OF CAREER EMPLOYEES) WHICH IS A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL VOICE IN CIVIL SERVICE ISSUES (IE. MERIT VS. PATRONAGE HIRINGS), AND IN THE ORIGINAL BUDGET PROPOSAL, REMOVING EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF REVENUE AND REGULATION FROM THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE TO UNCLASSIFIED PROMPTED ME TO GET INVOLVED IN A LEADERSHIP CAPACITY OF THE ORGANIZING DRIVE TO UNIONIZE STATE EMPLOYEE SUPERVISORS UNDER THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS. I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT IF AN EMPLOYER TREATS THEIR EMPLOYEES FAIRLY AND HONESTLY THERE IS NO NEED FOR A UNION, BUT CLEARLY THROUGH THIS BUDGET AND DER'S UNWILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE'S CONCERNS, COLLECTIVE VOICES WITH STRENGTH IN NUMBERS IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND STATE EMPLOYMENT.

I URGE AMENDING THE BUDGET THAT DISALLOWS STATE SUPERVISORS ORGANIZING, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT IS POOR PUBLIC POLICY, BUT IT ALSO BECOMES GREAT LAWYER FODDER AND A NLRB CHALLENGE. THIS IN ITSELF HAS BECOME ONE OF THE BEST ORGANIZING TOOLS, AND IF SINCERE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED TO BE AN HONEST AND FAIR EMPLOYER, THE ORGANIZING DRIVE WILL FAIL.

ANOTHER MAJOR POLICY ISSUE PLACED IN THIS MASSIVE BUDGET DOCUMENT ARE THE CHANGES TO ALLOW CORRECTIONS AND BADGER STATE INDUSTRIES THE AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT WITH PRIVATE BUSINESS' TO GENERATE INMATE WORK THAT COULD BE SOLD ON THE OPEN PRIVATE MARKET. PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS OF LEGISLATION IN THIS REGARD HAVE HAD SEVERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS WITH INPUT FROM PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS' AND THE COMMUNITIES WHO COULD LOSE JOBS TO INMATES. THROUGH THIS BUDGET BILL, THREE SELECTED PRIVATE INDUSTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO PROFIT FROM THE USE OF CHEAP INMATE LABOR.

THIS LEGISLATION SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM THE BUDGET AND HAVE FULL HEARINGS WITH SEPARATE BILLS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION.

I STRONGLY URGE AMENDING SECTION 6396 OF AB-150 TO ELIMINATE LANGUAGE THAT WOULD ALLOW BADGER STATE INDUSTRIES TO RECYCLE "PAINT BY-PRODUCTS" WITHIN THE PRISONS. BADGER STATE INDUSTRIES VERY POOR ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS HISTORY IN MANAGING PAINTS AND HAZARDOUS WASTES MUST BE OF GREAT CONCERN TO OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND TO THE SAFETY OF STAFF IN THE PRISON OPERATIONS. BADGER STATE INDUSTRIES HAS TWICE BEEN FINED AND CURRENTLY ARE UNDER CIRCUIT COURT ORDERS FOR MISHANDLING PAINT WASTES IN WAUPUN, WHICH HAS COST TAXPAYERS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES IN THE NEAR PAST, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS CANNOT BE TRUSTED TO EXPAND IN THIS TYPE OF MARKET.

FINALLY, I AM MOST UPSET WITH THE PHILOSOPHICAL DIRECTION THIS BUDGET AND OUR STATE SOCIETY IS LEADING TO. YOU WOULD THINK THAT AS A CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEE I WOULD BE DELIGHTED AND JOB SECURE, BUT I AM ONLY TO THE POINT THAT THIS IS A HUMANITY ISSUE IN RELIEVING OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS IN THIS STATE'S PRISONS.

BUT TO GROW OUR PRISONS AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR NEXT GENERATION OF CHILDREN AND A PREMIER EDUCATION SYSTEM IS APPALLING IN OUR INFORMATION AGE.

IT HAS BEEN SAID IN THE MILWAUKEE SENTINEL EDITORIALS THAT THIS BUDGET REPRESENTS "BLOOD MONEY" SAVINGS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE DISABLED, THE POOR, AND CHILDREN.

I WOULD AGREE AND HOW CONVENIENT TO PICK ON THIS CONSTITUENCY, AND INMATES, WHEN THEY ARE LIMITED IN THE VOTING BOOTH AND THROUGH POWERFUL LOBBYISTS.

IN SUMMARY, I URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER REMOVING POLICY ISSUES FROM THIS AB-150 1995-97 BUDGET AND ALLOWING OPEN AND PUBLIC DEMOCRACY TO FUNCTION AS DESIGNED BY OUR CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMERS, THROUGH REFERENDUM AND FULL LEGISLATION PROCESS'.

CIVIL SERVICE MUST REMAIN INTACT IN STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE TO PREVENT CRONYISM AND POLITICAL PATRONAGE APPOINTMENTS INSTEAD OF QUALIFIED AND MERITORIOUS HIRINGS.

THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM AS IT NOW FUNCTIONS WITHIN WISCONSIN MUST BE PRIORITIZED FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NEXT GENERATION IN THIS STATE, OR WE MIGHT AS WELL PUT UP A PRISON FENCE AROUND WISCONSIN WHERE EITHER WE'LL ALL BE PRISON EMPLOYEES OR PRISONERS AND THE STATE TOURISM SLOGAN WILL BE "ESCAPE FROM WISCONSIN".

AS ALWAYS, I AM AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MY POSITION OR TO DETAIL THIS TESTIMONY AT YOUR REQUEST.

DEEPLY CONCERNED,


JEFF HOLUBOWICZ

cc: GOVERNOR THOMPSON
SENATOR FITZGERALD
REPRESENTATIVE GOETSCH
EDITORIAL MEDIA
ACE
AFT/WFT

PRESENTATION TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
MARCH 27, 1995

Good afternoon Representative Brancel, Senator Leean, and members of the Joint Finance Committee.

My name is **Ann Neviaser** and I served nine years as an elected Dane County Board Supervisor. I hold a Masters Degree in Consumer Science from the University of Wisconsin at Madison which is the study of the utilization of resources, by family's and individuals. From 1986 to '89 I served on the **Judicial Council's Adhoc Committee on Small Claims and Garnishment**.

Today I wish to encourage your **support for retention of the Judicial Council in the Governor's budget**.

The Council responds to requests from the Legislature and the Courts. The work of this committee is accomplished largely by volunteers many of whom are well known and respected in their field and who are honored to serve because of the stature that the Judicial Council has achieved. Two of the major projects now underway are the massive overhaul of 13 chapters regulating **criminal procedure** and the **redrafting of the rules of civil procedure**.

My experience on the Judicial Council has taught me how important it is to come to agreement and iron out differences between user groups such as the AFLCIO and the Merchants Federation, Bankers, Collection Lawyers, municipalities like Milwaukee, Madison, and Eau Claire before a law is enacted. Revisions in **Small Claims Procedures** took effect in **1987 Act 208** and the **1993 Act 80** is a comprehensive revision of the statutes governing the **garnishment** of earnings in Wisconsin. Effective April 1, 1994 this law completely revamped the substantive and procedure law in this area. Four main effects are already noticeable. (1) The court cost and court appearances required to prosecute a garnishment have been substantially reduced and court staff have been freed for other tasks. (2) More money is being paid by solvent debtors to creditors in satisfaction of outstanding judgment debt. (3) The forms sent to the employers are clear and understandable and require no filings in court by the employer. (4) Debtors are protected by exemptions more closely related to poverty than under the prior law.

Everybody has gained by eliminating the requirement that legal process be served in the debtor anew each pay period.

This act was developed by the Judicial Councils Garnishment Committee which brought "real life experiences and examples to the table" before the law was passed. The Judicial Council's Executive Secretary was research reporter to this committee and served on a State Bar subcommittee which developed a pamphlet explaining the new law to employers and this pamphlet is widely used in the payroll department of Wisconsin Businesses.

One of the most innovative pieces of work that the Judicial Council has done is that they were the initiator of Wisconsin's new **Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures**. By reducing the number of civil trials in Wisconsin courts the ADR law will save time and money for everyone concerned without reducing the quality of justice.

In its 44 year history the State Judicial Council has not increased its staff of two. With a budget of \$140,000 it has been a catalyst for many laws that have solved complex legal problems. The Councils continuation is in the best interest of Wisconsin consumers. I believe that we are getting no greater "bang for our tax dollar."