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**Citizens for Responsible Zoning and Landowner Rights, Inc.  
CRZLR, Inc.**

P.O. Box 16 Maiden Rock WI 54750 Tel/FAX 715-448-3213

Presentation by Marilyn F. Hayman  
to  
**JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Meeting to discuss the GOVERNORS'S BUDGET

Osceola High School, Osceola, Wisconsin  
April 14, 1999

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Marilyn Hayman. I am past President and current Chairman of the Board of Citizens for Responsible Zoning and Landowner Rights, Inc.

**This organization wishes to go on record opposing further support for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission.** This non-elected body, working with non-elected agencies and private, preservationist-oriented organizations does not represent the interests, nor the will of the people of this area. Together, they are systematically working to deprive citizens of their right to control and use private property.

Dan McGuinness, their former Executive Director expressed their philosophy in a letter to the Editor, (Pierce County Herald, April 15, 1997) describing the BAC as a forum to promote, "...different values about the rights and responsibilities related to land use and land ownership." (emphasis added) That smacks of rewriting the 5th Amendment!

Their interest in controlling private land is illustrated by their involvement in the St. Croix Riverway. They have actively promoted expansion of the area suggesting, "... the need for a more comprehensive ... management ... **ever-expanding geographic scopes... The Riverway ... The Viewshed... The Watershed.**" (Minutes, Lower St. Croix Management Commission, 5-25-95).

They held a series of meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in 1990 to promote regulations along the Mississippi River, but met with massive opposition. They were obliged to report opposition to the State Legislature. Never-the-less, they continued to promote bluffland management based on, "... our sense of the situation..." (Emphasis added; Pierce County Herald, 10-16-91).

Board of Directors:

Jack E. Brown  
Vernon Martin

William Holst III  
Francis H. Ogden  
Joe Wieser

Dr. Ernest Larson  
Frederick Richter

They have since held numerous meetings to promote this objective, a good example being a Planners' Forum scheduled for June 1995. They issued 550 invitations. Although they were discussing "protection and management," of private land, property owners and representatives from business were NOT INVITED.

Mr. McGuiness portrayed the BAC as a "... conduit for public values and opinions..." A transcript of their Onalaska meeting on February 20, 1997 gives a different view. The Committee, along with several guests, discussed whether the BAC should participate in a citizen-sponsored meeting in southeastern Minnesota. One of the reasons for their unwillingness was the fact I, too, had been invited. The meeting turned into an orgy of character assassination, slander and libel, at taxpayer expense.

The tape revealed Senator Morse disapproved of BAC participation and they were concerned over his position as chairman of the Minnesota budget committee.

One of the Commissioners suggested if they were to attend they would need to "...take control of the process (by means of) a number of specific steps..." including:

*"... the opening and closing words..."*

*"To control the crowd, questions from the audience (would be) repeated by the person at the microphone.*

*"... an official video tape*

*"... registration at the only entrance to the hall, so that everyone who comes in could be identified... and,*

*"... advanced copies of everyone's planned speech..."*

I have provided two copies of a complete transcript of that meeting for your respective Chairmen. I would urge you to take time to review this material before you decide they deserve further public funding.

Government is too big; it spends too much money; there are too many bureaucrats. Though disbanding the BAC is a small step, it is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present our position.

April 14, 1999

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Osceola, Wisconsin

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governor Thompson for allocating funds to continue elk reintroduction in Wisconsin. I would also like to thank this committee for allowing me to express our views.

As some of you may be aware from the media, Jackson County is actively working toward getting an elk herd of our own. Even though our efforts and the funding for additional elk were coincidental, the timing is perfect. The citizens of Jackson County are very enthusiastic about our prospects of getting elk as we recognize its significance to both the local area and the State. We believe that when the time and conditions exist to make it possible to help restore the biodiversity that existed before its destruction, it is our obligation to do that.

Speaking on behalf of the citizens of Jackson County, numerous wildlife organizations, and elk admirers statewide, I strongly urge the committee to support that portion of the budget, which provides funding for this magnificent animal.

Respectfully yours,



Allen K. Jacobson, Chairman  
JACKSON COUNTY ELK PROJECT

**WASHBURN COUNTY ZONING ADMINISTRATION**  
**Craig Conroy, Administrator**  
**Court House, P.O. Box 506, 10 Fourth Avenue**  
**Shell Lake, Wisconsin 54871**  
**Telephone 715-468-4690 Fax 715-468-4693**

April 12, 1999

Joint Finance Committee  
State Capital  
Madison WI 53707

Dear Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

I strongly support the Department of Natural Resources request for approval of the "5410 Wisconsin Waters Initiative".

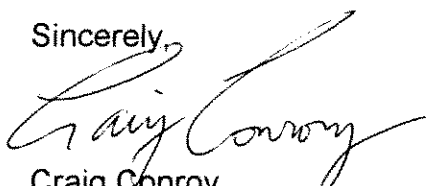
As Zoning Administrator of Washburn County, I deal daily with the enormous pressure being placed on our water resources. This ever-increasing pressure is common throughout the northern counties. Permit volume and other actions have more than doubled in the last few years, stretching already understaffed County and State offices beyond their limits.

Northern counties have historically relied on Department staff for assistance with technical issues in the water programs, as well as referring public requests that fall solely within Department jurisdiction. Staffing for these vital programs has not even come close to demands for service, causing delay to public requests for service, and harm to streams, lakes and wetlands. The 5410 Initiative will provide an additional 12 positions, about one-fourth of what is actually needed, which is still a strong step in the right direction. Eighteen northern Counties have 72% of the states lakes. Sixteen northern Counties are in the process of upgrading their shoreland protection standards, and need technical assistance from WDNR. It is time to place the positions where the resources are, in the North. Certainly other parts of the State warrant assistance as well; however, the short fall is the greatest in the North, with over 1500 lakes per person under current staffing.

It is absolutely necessary to provide staff to address the demands and pressures on our water resources, further is necessary to assign the staff to where the resources are actually located.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Craig Conroy  
Zoning Administrator

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## St. Croix Basin Partners Team

W6646 Highway 70, Spooner, WI 54801  
Phone: 715-635-7406 Fax: 715-635-6741  
E-mail: John.Haack@ces.uwex.edu  
Web Page: clean-water.uwex.edu/stcroix

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April 12, 1999

Joint Finance Committee  
State Capital  
Madison WI 53707-7882

Dear Committee Members:

This letter is concerning the proposal for the Wisconsin Waters Initiative, Decision Item 5410. We are a group of conservation agencies and citizens concerned with natural resource issues in the St. Croix Basin. Our group works to develop better coordination and collaboration among agencies and groups working to promote and implement sound resource management.

Northern Wisconsin is a unique landscape that attracts tourists and residents alike; it is a place with one of the world's largest concentration of fresh water lakes. The quality of our lakes attracts vacationers, residents and businesses to the north. The ability of the Department of Natural Resources water staff is being overwhelmed by the large influx of residents and second home owners developing these shorelines. The waters that attract folks to the north are threatened by unfortunate side effects of poorly enforced shoreland rules due to lack of education and lack of staff to enforce and educate. DNR staff is over-extended in the north, with hundreds of lakes assigned to a single individual along with the responsibility to coordinate water permits, wetland rules and oversee shoreland-zoning programs for several counties.

Supporting the original DNR request would offer a partial solution to this issue. Clearly, development will continue in the north. Protecting our quality surface waters will help maintain the very thing that draws tourists, residents and businesses to our lake regions. It is a small-price to pay and a wise investment in the future for all of us. Once lake systems are degraded, restoration efforts prove to be very costly and often are not very effective. Protection is really a better strategy and investment. The people of the State need and deserve the opportunity to protect our surface waters. While we feel the Governor's recommendation for \$455,100 (7FTE) is a good start, we ask that you support the request for the original \$1,590,800 (12FTE). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig Conroy".

Craig Conroy (On Behalf of the St. Croix Basin Partners Team)

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**St. Croix Basin Team Members:** Burnett Co. Land & Water Conservation Dept., Washburn County Zoning Office, MN-WI Boundary Area Commission, National Park Service, Wisconsin DNR, University Wisconsin Extension, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Washburn Co. Forest Service, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, St. Croix Tribal Natural Resources

Position of the Wisconsin Land Information Association  
Regarding the Governors 1999/2001 Biennium Budget  
Land Information Initiative

In 1989, the Legislature approved the formation of the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) and then in 1991 created a funding mechanism for the program based on deed recording fees. In addition to the funding mechanism, the Legislature provided that the WLIP:

1. Direct and supervise the overall Land Information Program for Wisconsin,
2. Serve as the State Clearinghouse for access to Land Information and to maintain and distribute an inventory of land information systems,
3. Provide technical assistance and advice to state and local governments,
4. Prepare guidelines to coordinate the modernization of land records and information systems,
5. Review and approve applications for grants-in-aid from local government units and
6. Review for approval, countywide plans for land records modernization.

Funding and oversight of the legislative charges above is guided and controlled by the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB), whose membership is appointed by the Governor. This innovative program implemented organizational reforms, introduced new technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and guided the modernization of local land records in such a way as to enhance overall statewide land information resources. Counties and other program participants soon realized WLIP funding was insufficient to pay for all modernization activities single-handedly. Consequently, local governments quickly became innovative in planning and finding supplemental funding for individual projects. (E.G. : \$50 million in WLIP funds have been supplemented with at least another \$50 million in non-program funds.) Therefore, the program has been directly responsible for widespread cooperation between agencies at all levels of government and the private sector. The WLIP has been a critical factor in reducing duplication of governmental records and activities, resulting in significant taxpayer savings. The Wisconsin Land Information Program has become a national model based on this cooperative, grass roots and bottom up system of modernization.

The role of the WLIB in supervising the WLIP funding was to assure that funds for individual projects are used in concert with the overall WLIP plans, so as to enhance the entire state's land information resources. The ultimate goal was to build a coordinated statewide Land Information System (LIS) through the use of a distributed system of local data warehouses. In other words, data would be generated and used locally but integrated across jurisdictional boundaries, allowing "horizontal" and "vertical" access to data by all layers of government and private sector users. The WLIP recognizes that the realization of a confederated LIS is only possible if the combined expertise found within the community of land information professionals in this great state is used to the fullest extent possible.

This expertise resides, for the most part, in the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA), which was organized in 1987. The WLIA conceived the idea of a "bottom-up" approach to a land information system, organized throughout the state, involved in and based on the data and systems of the same agencies producing and maintaining the information. WLIA promoted the legislation creating the WLIP and the WLIP. This community, of stakeholders and concerned land information professionals, is committed to the continued deliberate development of an integrated land information system for Wisconsin, thereby guaranteeing the success of not only the system but that of the decision makers who will use it.

## ISSUES

In the Governor's Budget, there are two Land Information Initiatives that dramatically change the intent of the original legislation regarding the WLIP and the ability of the WLIB to control the funding and direction of the program. These proposals, found in "The Budget in Brief" on page 23, are:

1. To increase the amount of yearly WLIP contribution for the NRCS soil mapping/digitization initiative allocated by the WLIB, by decreasing the timeframe for payment.
2. To use WLIP funds to create a Wisconsin Land Information System (WLIS) housed and controlled exclusively by the DOA.

### *ITEM #1- SOILS MAPPING & DIGITIZATION INITIATIVE WITH NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)*

The NRCS has proposed a cost-sharing program to speed up the mapping of soils and digitization of soil data in Wisconsin. This project was considered beneficial by the WLIB and they were willing to contribute program funds at the rate of 20% (approximately \$415,000) of the available funds over a six year period because:

1. It completes a much needed foundational element enhancing the state's overall resources for planning initiatives
2. It captures almost 8 million dollars in federal funds by partnering with NRCS.
3. It will take a minimum of 6 years to complete the entire project.
4. It keeps 80% of the WLIP funds available for other much-needed local projects.

This deliberate rate of funding allows the continuance of the original intent of the legislative charges and vision of the WLIP.

The Governor's proposal has the following ramifications:

1. It reduces the time frame for completion of the soils digitization and mapping project to 4 years, which is technically infeasible according to the NRCS (stated at the WLIB meeting on 3/10/99).
2. It increases the rate of funding to approximately 35% of the available program funds (\$620,000), reducing the funding available for local projects.
3. It abrogates the WLIB's legislative charge to control allocation of the WLIP funding.

### **WLIA PROPOSAL ON ITEM #1**

- **Redraft the legislation allowing the WLIB to retain control over the rate of funding for the statewide soil initiative.**

### *ITEM #2- REALLOCATING WLIP FUNDS TO THE DOA FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING AND HOUSING A WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM (WLIS) WITHOUT DIRECTION OR SUPERVISION OF THE WLIB*

Throughout the history of the WLIP, we have recognized the need for and have been working deliberately toward a confederated, integrated, and accessible Wisconsin Land Information System. With the advent of the Wisconsin Land Council in 1997, the WLIB and the WLIA have all agreed to a partnership that works in concert to develop a system worthy of Council's legislative charges, without compromising the vision of the WLIP. Specific agreements made included:

1. Preserving the integrity and statutory role of the WLIB
2. Preserving the funding of the WLIP for Board approved and directed activities
3. That the..."proposed council provides new opportunities to expand, not restrict, the resources available to collect and use land information needed by local governments..."<sup>1</sup>
4. That the council activities "involve researching, developing, designing, recommending and coordinating. They do not involve policy making, rule making, controlling, directing or restricting the authority of any state agency or local government."<sup>2</sup>
5. The creation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the DOA, WLC and the WLIB; which is evidence of the clear intent by at least two of the groups to work together in harmony for the betterment of Wisconsin.

This budget initiative is the antithesis of the legislative intent of the 1991 acts providing for the supervision and funding of the WLIP, the functionality of the MOU (that is yet to be ratified), the agreements and assurances of the DOA, and 10 years of foundational work by the land information professionals in the state. The funding of the DOA's WLIS is premature, since the statutory charge of the WLC is to study and propose recommendations for a WLIS prior to legislative funding requests.

The Governor's proposal has the following ramifications:

1. It diverts WLIP funds to the DOA for an as yet undefined Wisconsin Land Information System (WLIS) which has the disastrous potential of being a monolithic database housed and controlled at DOA, eliminating the confederated system already being developed by experts statewide.
2. It also creates an incredibly costly duplication of effort as the WLIB has a statutory charge to serve as a clearinghouse for land information, and has been funding and guiding a partnership with the State Cartographer's Office to such ends.
3. It eliminates a confederated systems approach, which support individual local needs while allows the most current information to be made available to all citizens statewide.
4. It removes all funding control and development supervision of the WLIS from the Wisconsin Land Information Board and allows the Department of Administration to invest itself with the entire responsibility of building a statewide tool for decision making; thereby ignoring the expertise of the land information specialists in the form of WLIA, working in concert with WLIB, which is the foundation for the achievements realized in the last 10 years.

#### WLIA PROPOSAL ON ITEM #2

- **Remove item #2 from the budget in its entirety**
- **Restore control of the funding to the WLIB**
- **Require the DOA to adhere to the legislative charges of the Wisconsin Land Information Board and Program, the Wisconsin Land Council and to follow the proposed MOU between WLIB, WLC and DOA.**

<sup>1</sup> DOA Secretary, Mark Bugher's letter to Wisconsin legislators dated March 21, 1997

<sup>2</sup> DOA Secretary, Mark Bugher's letter to Wisconsin legislators dated March 21, 1997



Good Morning/Afternoon:

My name is Kay Cederberg and I am the Clerk of Circuit Court for Bayfield County. Bayfield County is large in size, approximately 966,000 acres, with a population of just over 14,000. I am here today to give you information about Bayfield County Clerk of Court Office and how important CCAP is to the operation of this office.

The Clerk of Court Staff uses CCAP on a daily basis for all of our operational functions. Some of these functions include management of all cases; warrant preparation and tracking; calendaring all court activities; compiling statistics for the State, County, Agencies and individuals; collection of all receivables; tracking receivables; automated bookkeeping procedures; tracking of payables; payment of payables; jury management; word processing; judgment and lien docket; criminal searches for employers, county offices and individuals; civil searches for a variety of agencies and individuals; and legal research for the Judges.

I have prepared some comparison information for you regarding the Clerk of Court Office in Bayfield County. This information compares the year before we went on CCAP (1992) and this last year (1998).

In 1992 we collected \$311,501.74 in fines and fees. Of this amount, \$133,256.74 (43%) stayed with the County and \$178,245.01 (57%) was directed to the State of Wisconsin. In 1998 we collected \$533,641.03 in fines and fees. Of this amount, \$175,804.30 (33%) stayed with the County and \$357,836.73 (67%) was directed to the State of Wisconsin. Over this 6-year period our collections increased by 42% overall. This reflects a 24% increase for the County and a 50% increase for the State of Wisconsin.

There are many reasons why our collections increased and why the County's percentage of retention did not maintain the same level as the State's. Some of the reasons are: (1) There have been changes in certain line item collection percentages assigned to the County and State (ie. the division percentages of Juvenile Legal Fees in 1992 was 50% County and 50% State, in 1998 for this same collection, percentages were 25% County and 75% State; for the Circuit and Municipal Court Fees collected in 1992, the County retained approximately 40%, the State retained approximately 33% and CCAP retained approximately 27%, in 1998 for this same collected fee, the County retained approximately 32%, the State retained approximately 47% and CCAP retained approximately 21%) (2) There has been a significant increase in case load during this period of time. In Bayfield County, our case load increased by almost 700 cases, this is nearly a 15% increase in cases, with no increase in staff positions. Due to the increase in case load, the amount of collections has increased. (3) The amounts of imposed fines and forfeitures and the required filing fees have increased over this period of 6 years. (4) The Clerk of Court Staff have made more aggressive attempts to collect outstanding receivables. We have been able to do this because of the

technology CCAP has provided to us. (5) There have been changes in some laws, particularly the Juvenile Code, which provides for more fines to be imposed because individuals are being brought into adult court at younger ages, thus increasing the number of criminal cases.

Bayfield County Clerk of Court Office maintained in 1998 4,655 cases. CCAP has provided us with an automated Court Record, which is used to enter and maintain an estimated average of 15 events per case. As of March 31, 1999 our outstanding receivables were \$501,576.50. Monitoring this amount of receivables would be a tremendous laborious task without CCAP. We have 215 outstanding warrants on cases, of which 88 are for failure to pay court ordered obligations. We depend on CCAP to provide our hardware, software, technical support, and training. CCAP also helps us through issues related to forms and procedures. You might say that CCAP has become our "Right-Hand Man".

I would like to close by informing you of some of the agencies and individuals whom in some form or fashion rely on the Clerk of Court Office for necessary information to maintain their business, be it personal or professional. These agencies/individuals include the Circuit Judge and Staff; District Attorneys and Staff; Local Probation/Parole Agents; State Probation Office; County Sheriffs' Departments; County Jail; State Prison System; County Tax Lister; County Corporation Counsel; County Clerk; County Treasurer; County Child Support Agency; County Department of Human Services; County Zoning Office; Local Law Enforcement Agencies; State Patrol; Wisconsin Crime Information Bureau; Wisconsin Department of Transportation; Wisconsin Department of Revenue; Wisconsin Division of Workforce Development; Local Banks, Local Credit Bureaus; Local Abstractors and Title Companies; Local Schools; Local Attorneys; State Public Defender; Agencies from Other States and last, but not least, the General Public.

CCAP has made a very big difference in how the Wisconsin Court System takes care of business. Please, I urge you, consider CCAP's request for an increased budget, so they can meet their needs for the present and continue with their vision for the future. Thank you!

BAYFIELD COUNTY CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT CASE LOAD

1993 Cases = 3,968  
1994 Cases = 4,231  
1995 Cases = 4,321  
1996 Cases = 3,696  
1997 Cases = 4,572  
1998 Cases = 4,655

OUTSTANDING RECEIVABLES AS OF MARCH 31, 1999

Fees Receivables	\$ 33,414.70
Criminal Judgments Receivables	152,371.65
Restitution Receivables	58,217.39
Traffic/Forfeiture Judgment Receivables	257,572.76
TOTAL OUTSTANDING RECEIVABLES	\$ 501,576.50

OUTSTANDING WARRANTS FOR BAYFIELD COUNTY AS OF MARCH 31, 1999

215 Warrants, of which 88 are for failure to pay warrants

AGENCIES/INDIVIDUALS RELYING ON BAYFIELD CO. CLERK OF COURT OFFICE

Circuit Judge's Office	Department of Revenue
District Attorneys' Offices	Wisconsin DWD
Local Probation/Parole Offices	Local Banks
County Sheriff's Department	Local Credit Bureaus
County Tax Lister	Local Abstractors
County Corporation Counsel	Local Schools
County Clerk	Local Attorneys
County Treasurer	State Public Defender
County Child Support Agency	General Public
County Department of Human Services	State Patrol
County Zoning Office	Other States
Local Law Enforcement Agencies	
WI Crime Information Bureau	
Department of Transportation	

ACTIVITIES PERFORMED DAILY USING CCAP

Case Management  
Warrant Preparation/Tracking  
Calendaring  
Compiling Statistics  
Collection of Receivables  
Tracking Receivables  
Automated Bookkeeping  
Tracking of Payables  
Jury Management  
Word Perfect/Word Processing  
Judgment/Lien Docket  
Criminal Searches  
Civil Searches  
Legal Research for Judges

REVENUES COLLECTED BY BAYFIELD COUNTY CLERK OF COURT OFFICE

Total 1992 = \$311,501.74 County = \$133,256.74 State = \$178,245.01  
100% 43% 57%

Total 1998 = \$533,641.03 County = \$175,804.30 State = \$357,836.73  
100% 33% 67%

Differences= \$222,139.29 County = \$ 42,547.56 State = \$179,591.72

Increase = 42% 24% 50%

Reasons for Increase:

Changes in percentage of collections  
Increase in case load/more fines collected  
Higher fines/forfeitures imposed  
More aggressive collections by Clerk of Court Staff  
Better technology for tracking receivables through CCAP  
Changes in laws (Juvenile Code)

**Public Testimony**  
Joint Committee on Finance  
April 14, 1999

Gregg Moore  
Tenth District Court Administrator  
405 S. Barstow, Suite C  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Good morning. My name is Gregg Moore, and for more than 15 years I have served as the district court administrator for the Tenth Judicial District in northwest Wisconsin.

In 1971, Governor Patrick Lucey, in response to Chief Justice E. Harold Hallows' proposal, issued an executive order creating a Citizens' Study Committee on Judicial Organization to make recommendations concerning the judicial system of Wisconsin. Thanks to the efforts of legislators, other governmental leaders and many citizens, a constitutional amendment was approved in April 1977 that significantly reformed the Wisconsin court system.

One of the most important constitutional changes was creation of a unified court system with the Supreme Court having superintending and administrative authority over all courts. I believe that the Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP) has, as much as any other single initiative, made the concept of a unified judicial system a reality.

CCAP has been an example of government at its best – innovative, cost-effective, efficient, service-oriented, and successful. Because of its success, CCAP has grown to become an essential element of the court's infrastructure. It is critically important that CCAP have adequate resources so the judicial branch can carry out its constitutional and statutory responsibilities on an on-going and sustained basis.

The two big-ticket items in the Supreme Court's budget request are 1) funding for ten new staff positions and 2) funding for hardware and software. CCAP now has 2,600 users in 73 locations across the state, and the number of users is expected to climb to 3,000. Even by increasing the number of staff from 39 to 49, the staffing level would still be well below that suggested by DOA staffing standards.

Regarding the hardware and software expense, that is simply the reasonable and necessary cost of doing the public's business in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and soon-to-be early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I urge you to support full funding of the Circuit Court Automation Program as proposed by the Supreme Court. Thank you for your consideration.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TESTIMONY

Circuit Judge Thomas H. Barland

Chair, Criminal Penalties Study Committee

April 14, 1999

Good Morning Chairman Gard, Chairman Burke, and Members of the Joint Committee on Finance. My name is Thomas Barland. I am appearing today wearing two hats--the one as a trial judge of 32 years' experience and the other as Chair of the Criminal Penalties Study Committee. I am appearing to support the Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP) original budget request, wearing my circuit judge hat, and urging you to consider not only approving the CCAP budget request, but enhancing it, wearing my Criminal Penalties Study Committee hat.

Speaking first as a trial judge, I am now totally dependent upon CCAP for my calendar and case management. It has saved me a great deal of time, because I can quickly look up cases on the computer without having to call or run to the Clerk of Court's office to physically secure the file or ask someone else to do it. It has speeded up my processing of cases. It has allowed me to keep better track of cases. There is less of a chance of losing track of a case. It has reduced the need for additional staff people because I can do much on the computer that I formerly would have asked others to do. For example, in Eau Claire County each judge shares a secretary with another judge. Without CCAP we would each have needed an individual secretary. My final comment as a trial judge is that in my 32 years of experience, CCAP is the most important and significant advance in judicial

administration during that time. I have reviewed Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson's comments to this committee delivered on March 25th and concur with her conclusions. Having served on the original CCAP Advisory Committee, I can tell you that unless the original budget requests are met, there is a clear and present danger that the system with its increased workload will degrade in its ability to serve the courts.

Now let me give you a few comments as Chair of the Criminal Penalties Study Committee. I know that you and the Legislature as a whole are well aware of the fact that the increasing prison population in Wisconsin is beginning to have a significant impact on other important segments of the state budget, particularly education. Under Truth-in-Sentencing there is the potential for that problem to be exacerbated to the point that the prisons will so dominate the biennial budget that the state will be forced into making very harmful budget cuts elsewhere unless the state takes some steps to control the exploding prison population. That can be done with the wise use of powers given to a Sentencing Commission without impeding individual judges' discretionary sentencing decisions provided that the state, through the Sentencing Commission, has the data to analyze charging and sentencing practices and predict costs. This can only be done if the state has an adequate data base and a sophisticated computer analytical system. It presently has neither.

CCAP has the potential of being the most important single source of information to analyze what is happening in the criminal justice system, but it's not in operation throughout the

entire state. Ozaukee, Wood, and Waukesha Counties presently are only partially on CCAP. Those three counties will not have their criminal cases on CCAP until January, 2000. Portage County only has probate on CCAP. Outagamie and Walworth Counties, both large counties in terms of criminal sentencing, are not on CCAP. All Wisconsin courts should be on CCAP within the next biennium if we are to wisely manage our criminal justice system.

CCAP must be able to talk to the Department of Corrections data base. This should be done electronically. At the present time, the Department of Corrections is manually entering sentencing information into its computer system. DOC has valuable information which a Sentencing Commission needs in preparing sentence guidelines to shape the sentencing policy of the state. Much data received from DOC by the Criminal Penalties Study Committee has proved to be too unreliable to be of help. It, too, needs to be and is in the process of being upgraded to carry out this function.

The upgrading of the two data bases, that is CCAP and DOC, together with the bringing on line of all counties in Wisconsin, will take several years to accomplish under the best of circumstances. The prison population time bomb under Truth-in-Sentencing could start to cause problems beginning in the biennium after next. We need to prepare for that eventuality now.

The Criminal Penalties Study Committee final report will set forth that problem in greater detail and explain the important role that a Sentencing Commission can play in studying and



monitoring what is occurring in the criminal justice system and thereby help to educate both the Legislature and the judiciary as to appropriate sentencing decisions.

**POLK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
Branch 1  
James R. Erickson, Circuit Court Judge**

**Polk County Courthouse  
100 Polk County Plaza, Suite 240  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810**

Becky S. Berhow, Court Reporter (715) 485-9289  
Bonnie F. Jerrick, Judicial Assistant  
Margaret M. Maier, Register in Probate (715) 485-9238

Phone: (715) 485-9293  
FAX: (715) 485-9275

*April 14, 1999*

*Joint Committee on Finance  
Wisconsin State Legislature  
Madison, WI*

*Re: Reserve Judge Compensation, Section 753.075(3), Wisconsin Statutes*

*Dear Committee Members,*

*Thank you for visiting us here in Polk County. We sincerely appreciate you being here.*

*One of the primary roles of every Wisconsin Circuit Judge is to resolve each dispute between parties in a manner that is fair, effective, fast, and efficient. Trial judges do not get to pick and choose which cases are brought before us. We have to deal with every case that may be filed. In order to assist us in meeting our obligation, it is crucial that we have available a competent and willing pool of Reserve Judges to call upon to assist us on an as-needed basis.*

*The problem is that Section 753.075(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes sets the per diem pay for a Reserve Judge at less than \$32.00 per hour, based upon an eight-hour day. It is not unusual for a judge day to go well into the evening, especially when conducting a jury trial.*

*It would be fair and equitable to everyone concerned to at least offer equal pay to Reserve Judges. At least, the per diem ought to match the per diem of an active Circuit Judge. Modifying the statute slightly could thus avoid the risk of losing this valuable resource to other more lucrative areas of law practice.*

*There is significant competition out there in the legal world for the time, talent and services of our Reserve Judges.*

*I urge you to be fair and equitable. Doing so will at least help make sure that we have access to this very important resource, the Reserve Judge.*

*Sincerely,*



*James R. Erickson  
Circuit Judge*

*JRE/bfj*

Testimony before the  
Joint Finance Committee  
April 14, 1999  
Pam Saunders  
representing CROPP/Organic Valley

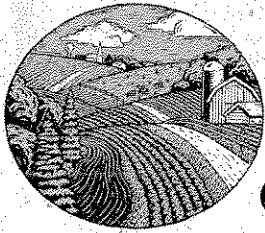
I employed by Coulee Region Organic Produce Pool (CROPP), headquartered in LaFarge, WI, which markets certified organic dairy, egg, vegetable and meat products under the brand Organic Valley™. I serve as Meat Pool Coordinator. Over our 10 years of existence, CROPP Cooperative has been substantially assisted by the Agricultural Diversification and Development Grant program within DATCP. This program has effectively leveraged state monies by awarding small matching grants to innovative projects spawned by the sustainable and organic agriculture community within this state. In our case, assistance from ADDG has helped in the development of a value-added cooperative, marketing over \$30 million dollars of product nationwide in 1998, from predominately Wisconsin farmers, and creating 250 agriculture related on and off farm jobs in Wisconsin. We are seen as a national leader in the organic food sector. Governor Thompson recently named CROPP the top Rural Development Initiative over the past decade.

The ADDG program is a good start. But the organic industry is poised for more growth. Consumers are increasingly interested in sustainably raised and organic products, reflected in 20% growth in organic sales during every year of the 90s. This represents significant opportunity for Wisconsin farmers. The USDA recently changed their policy to allow organic labeling of meat and poultry products, largely as a result of Organic Valley's efforts. In response we are launching new meat programs within our Cooperative, and we need assistance to support our projected growth.

When we look to our neighbors to the west, we see a startling disparity in assistance available to sustainable agriculture. Minnesota and Iowa both have programs that dwarf Wisconsin's commitment to this sector of our ag economy. Minnesota has a Sustainable Ag program that is staffed by 5.5 FTE employees, with a budget of about \$400,000. In addition, they have a demonstration grant program, similar to our ADDG program, funded at \$210,000. Their program also includes a \$200,000 low interest loan program for farmers.

Iowa also supports a sustainable agriculture program within their Department of Agriculture. This year Iowa unveiled a \$1 million dollar economic development loan program, up to \$200,000 forgivable, targeted to support Iowa food processors engaged in value-added processing, along with a seed money grant and loan program.

Wisconsin can be proud of the assistance it has provided to farmers through the ADDG program. It has clearly resulted in successful, ongoing projects such as CROPP. It is clearly not enough. With \$500,000 allocated to the program for each of the last two years, a portion of that going for direct grants, and no increase proposed, the number of deserving projects that can be supported is severely limited. We need Wisconsin loan programs that can help to support the kind of impressive growth experienced by CROPP in the last few years, with the accompanying need for capital. We need allocated staff within DATCP to serve the needs of the sustainable/organic agriculture community. The farmers are ready to produce, processors to add value, consumers to purchase – the State of Wisconsin needs to become more involved on behalf of our sustainable/organic farmers.



# Wisconsin Farmland Conservancy

*Protecting the Character of the Rural Countryside*

## Testimony Regarding Farmland Preservation Provisions In State Budget (AB - 133 /SB - 45)

Finance Committee Hearing - Osceola, WI

4/14/99

Thomas Quinn, Director

When it was first initiated, Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation program was intended to be a partnership between farmers and the citizens of Wisconsin. The program's goals reflected a shared understanding that protecting our base of diversified farms and farmland was important to the economy, environment, and social welfare of our state.

The partnership was straight forward. Farmers would agree to follow sound conservation practices and restrict development on their land, and in exchange the citizens of the state would provide property tax relief and some level of security for farm operations in areas that were designated for exclusive agriculture.

There is no question that over the past decade this sense of partnership has been weakened, and the Farmland Preservation Program has become less effective than it was hoped it would be. The conservation provisions of the program are generally seen as being effective. The land use provisions have been far less effective. In part, this is because over the years they have been weakened and not adequately enforced. But it is also true that times have changed and the economic and social forces affecting farmland protection, especially development pressure, have changed significantly.

The budget proposes a major overhaul of Farmland Protection. Some of these changes are positive, but unfortunately much of the plan misses the mark - especially in the areas of land protection.

What is most discouraging is that for the most part the budget plan misses an historic opportunity to reframe the Farmland Preservation Program in ways that could deal with the most important land use issues we will face in the future - balancing the need for growth with the value of maintaining farming opportunities, and providing security to farmers in long-term planning for their farm operation.

Over the past few years, our organization has been working with a number of communities that want very much to find a fair solution to the development pressures facing farmers and farmland. They are looking at options for establishing purchase of development rights programs, or providing special zoning options for farmers who want to develop a portion of their land. In every case their goals have been to provide fairness to landowners, while finding ways to permanently protect and support their base of farms.

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In a sense, they are working to reshape the partnership between farmers and citizens that was the original base of the our Farmland Preservation program. They are working very hard to develop approaches to permanent farmland protection that fit the unique circumstance of Wisconsin's agriculture and rural culture. What these communities need are tools that can help them succeed - most importantly, access to funding. Unfortunately, the budget plan, as currently presented, provides no real tools, and very little leadership.

There are several provisions that if added to the program that could provide support to communities that are looking for options to deal fairly with development pressure.

- Require that local governments include a plan for farmland preservation as part of their comprehensive plan as a condition for having Farmland Preservation Agreements released. It is reasonable to expect that after decades of public commitment to this program, we should at least take the time to plan thoughtfully about farming and farm security.
- Provide for targeting of benefits to areas facing the most serious development pressure, and consider provisions to assist farmers in establishing agriculture security areas.
- Provide that any funds not expended under the proposed \$35 million annual budget be allocated into a special fund for purchasing permanent agricultural conservation easements from farmers.
- Provide an opportunity for several local communities and counties to establish model farmland protection programs. These model programs would provide Wisconsin with a chance to gain valuable experience for future policy initiatives. Model programs could qualify for matching funds from the state if they observed certain requirements: provide for permanent protection of farmland, voluntary participation by farmers, raise matching funds from local and non-state sources, and encourage innovative options and partnerships.
- Provide local governments that have qualified farmland protection programs, that provide for purchasing development rights from willing sellers, with the statutory authority to assess reasonable farmland conversion or mitigation fees when land that was in exclusive agriculture is converted into residential use.

*Sen. Burke*

**Citizens for Responsible Zoning and Landowner Rights, Inc.  
CRZLR, Inc.**

P.O. Box 16 Maiden Rock WI 54750 Tel/FAX 715-448-3213

April 16, 1997

The Hon. Tommy Thompson  
State Capitol  
Madison WI 53702

Dear Governor Thompson:

And here is, "*The rest of the story*" -- a transcript of the BAC meeting at Onalaska WI on Feb. 20, 1997. Mr. McGuiness' letter of April 15, 1997 is a smooth attempt to cover up a very nasty situation.

Besides being a forum for character assassination, it should become clear, the BAC is being controlled by Democratic Senator Steve Morse, Chairman of the Minnesota Budget Committee, as a tool to forward his state land use policy.

As a Republican Governor, who has sworn to protect landowners' rights, do you feel Wisconsin taxpayers should be spending their money to further Democratic Senator Morse's personal agenda of controlling and managing private farm and forest lands in the State of Minnesota?

It should also become obvious, the BAC is **not** "*...a conduit for public values and opinions...*" as Mr. McGuiness claims, but rather is a forum to promote, "*...different values about the rights and responsibilities related to land use and land ownership,*" (emphasis added) as expressed in his Letter to the Editor. It smacks of rewriting the 5th Amendment!

Knowing hundreds of Farm Bureau members in Minnesota and Wisconsin, I can assure you it is not their intent to have Senator Morse, with the help of the BAC, redesign their responsibilities of land ownership.

We hereby request Wisconsin drop out of the 1965 Boundary Area Compact, or if this is impossible, to start interstate hearings of the BAC and their connections with Senator Morse.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Very truly



Marilyn F. Hayman, President

Board of Directors:

Jack E. Brown  
Vernon Martin

William Holst III  
Francis H. Ogden  
Joe Wieser

Dr. Ernest Larson  
Frederick Richter

## TRANSCRIPTION OF MEETING

### MINNESOTA/WISCONSIN BOUNDARY AREA COMMISSION

(M/W BAC)

FEBRUARY 20, 1997

Transcription by Marilyn F. Hayman  
President, Citizens for Responsible Zoning and Landowner Rights, Inc.

**Chairman ???:** ... There was one other that Comm Bob Mallaley went to which he's very interested in anyway... He's a Town Board Chairman here in Wisconsin and... uh Wi has some of its own initiatives, of course... But we do conduct public forums ...

I know we've been accused of trying to railroad things... Alan Russell is one of the more ??? ones, but that is not our mission. Our mission is to gather people together, let them discuss it in a rational manner, understand each other, hopefully, and uh voice their opinions so that opinion can go back to the legislators and to the agencies, where they're going to make the decisions ultimately. Yes?

**New speaker:** At Big River we try to give a lot of points of view to the issues and we have kinda decided to exclude Marilyn Hayman as a source of information and one of the reasons was I was at one of the meetings she was and ??? you were there and a couple of weeks later I was at a meeting at Winona High School.

At the beginning of the meeting they showed this video called Big Park that shows people in Park Service uniforms swooping down on a farm family to kinda cute country music and holding them at gunpoint and tying them to chairs and loading them into a truck to take over their farm. This was the beginning of the meeting.

Then Marilyn got up there and told everyone that she had just found out, and she was at the Winona meeting, that they wanted to expand the corridor to take the entire driftless region which she said went from Madison to Albert Lea MN and they were going to move all of the people out of there and return it to nature and I swear to you that's what she told the people there. So if you're asking... if you're going to be at a meeting where she's on the agenda you may want a clear disclaimer, because it was an outrageous meeting.

**Next speaker:** Well I was asked to come to this meeting by our chair of our Steering Committee, partly because I live near to get some clarification... Mr. Chairman you used the word railroad... people on our steering committee, this is the Houston Fillmore side really feel we're being railroaded into participating in this meeting. Uh I have the minutes from our Feb. 5 meeting and I'm not sure when the schedule with Comm. Grawe, but at our Feb. 5 meeting, one of the commissioners said this meeting was being sponsored by the Boundary Area Commission and this was on Feb. 5, uh, and I see on looking at this flyer, it's being sponsored by a number of groups and includes Farmers' Union from Winona, Houston and Fillmore counties.

I'm the president of Farmers Union and we've never been asked for sponsorship of this meeting, and I just saw that now... so, you know... I guess we would like to know if you're sponsoring this... if you've decided as a group to sponsor this meeting, and exactly why. In our side of the project, we've been going for nearly a year and a half and we've had literally, probably a

hundred meetings that are open to the public and we've had various attendance from a few to 50 or 60 maybe 80 people.

We've had anywhere between 5 to 600 people in the two counties participate in some function of our project. If you don't know about the Common Visions project from Houston and Fillmore Counties, you'll never know. (haha) We've have endless news articles, we've had endless meetings with local elected officials and with city government as well. You know, we're wondering, who this meeting is for and what's going to be of benefit there that hasn't already been presented to the public and that the public hasn't been involved in.

**Chair:** Go ahead.

**New Speaker - Ken?:** I'd just like to give you some information and to address it to Robin too. I would like to go back about two (?) years ago when I was concerned about the expenditure of funds and finding what I call ---- in southeastern Mn Balkans project and some of the ways that project is organized. I got involved; I talked consistently with local issues and local people and I was appointed, or nominated, to be on the steering committee of Fillmore/Houston County part of that project.

I've been with that project since its beginning... I still have some questions about ??? delegated funds, but I would like you to know that up until perhaps 9 months ago, I felt there was some legitimacy in some of the ??? and local activities within our group.

As of the last half year at least I seriously doubt if there is a legitimacy of these people in any constructive way towards our group and what we're trying to achieve and indeed I feel they are actually trying to sabotage the whole process.

More recently, about three months now, we had convened into a natural resource planning group and asked Larry Gates who's a DNR manager of watershed in MN to address our group with information and we were descended on by a disruptive body of people with video cameras etc. and he intentionally asked they... told them... that he would not continue if they used their camera and indeed what it was, myself included, as professionals, that I would be photographed and spliced in or edited in as a planning professional who was contributing to ??? taking land from people by the United Nations or God knows what.

I was so upset after that meeting that I wrote a letter to Sen. Morse and I called Sen. Morse about that activity and I more or less informally resigned from being a part of this group, so I seriously wonder if it's appropriate at this time, given the volatility of the environment here, to come in as a positive pro-active planning commission and take part in and even encourage this kind of behavior.

**Now, if indeed the forum were set up with, I would say, the right kind of controls, maybe it's an issue... ??? the capital in MN. ... seriously an issue for the Governor's office.**

I don't think this body should contribute to any more hostility by supporting anything that would even lend to this kind of act.

**Chair:** Part of our mission is to hold public meetings, to inform the public and to let groups of the public inform each other and as I said, other agencies. I think it is very worth while that we do that. How we control the volatility, I don't know.

**We were involved in one... Where was that? Bay Port? (Voice: Bay City) Bay City where we just about had to shut it down because Alan Russell, who's part of PLOW, along with Marilyn Hayman, they just kept shouting and shouting and wouldn't let the meeting to continue on.**



But, does that mean we should just put our tail between our legs and say that we won't have public meetings, we won't let you communicate with each other? I think it's important that everyone does communicate

**Bob Hurt**, with the Winona County common Visions project... I learned about the meeting almost two weeks ago... one of the individual planners approached me and explained who the people were that planned the meeting, what the supposed agenda was. We had about an hour meeting and I asked a lot of questions. Since then I had another member of the planning group contact me also.

I also indicated my hesitation because of the track record of (pause) Marilyn Hayman, some of her groups, I guess if there's another individual... I'm not aware of Don... (voice "Parmeter") Parmeter, is it, from northern MN, I believe? and it's difficult, you know, property rights is the big thing, but I found out there are some other issues.

First of all, I like to say something about the common visions project. 'Sounds very similar to what the Boundary Area Commission is trying to do, having an open forum for people with different viewpoints, trying to look at tough issues, in our case, primarily about land use. Uh, we have been doing that for a year and a half. We've had everything that Ken said about his group. We've had newspaper articles, television, been on the radio numerous times, front page coverage on Sunday newspapers. This has been open, very open process.

Our board has more property rights people on it... not our board... our steering committee... has more people with a property rights agenda than not. (Muffled questioner). A 12 member steering committee. Uh, the 55 member advisory committee is probably pretty equal... equally based... I'm not sure. We... on the property rights issue... our group has had 3 meetings, one of which we brought in 3 speakers on the property rights issue, plus we held a 2 day conference in Winona, when we had two speakers, almost half of one day, devoted to legal issues... property rights issues, that this.

We have very openly said, there are various viewpoints and what our project is attempting to do, is not to have people isolated here and isolated here, but people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and see what common ground we have and try to work out differences. We know there is hostility out there... the goal of our project is not to stir the fire, but rather to bring people together and to try to work together, a unique concept, not done very often. That's what we're trying to do

**Chair** That's a tough job.

**Bob Hurt** : It is. And when I started finding out who the people were who were putting it together, they're the folks that have been writing the nastiest letters to the Editor, about... and actually trying to undermine the project... not all of them, but a good number of them... and my answer to them, my suggestion to them, and, and basically those folks are concerned about their government as a lot of people are in this country right now... my suggestion to them is if you don't want big government coming down on them, then participate at local level. Roll up your sleeves and be willing to listen to people with opposite viewpoints than you have and try to work at the grassroots level. If you try to undermine the grassroots process, then you're gonna have big government, you're gonna have chaos...

and I also... let me go on for a few more minutes... I apologize because I do feel fairly passionate about this after working for nearly a year and a half of trying to get people to come together. It's a very difficult job to get people to come together and talk to one another. The group that

??? the number of people that are sponsoring are not instilling trust, or rather distrust, in a very lopsided agenda.

The... uh... one of the individuals called me later... and this gets beyond property rights now, and frankly assured me, "We're not trying to get you Bob..." Not trying to get me... I'm not going to mention the individual, but he did say then, "We're trying to get Sen. Morse. We're trying to get..." You see? Okay?

I spoke with ??? Dahlen, Republican, past Sec'y of Agriculture for the State of MN and also past legislator, Republican legislator, he said to me, "I hate to say it Bob, but this is becoming a partisan thing, and," he said, "common visions should absolutely not be partisan, whatsoever." We're trying to locally work together and there have been a few people who have been disrupting this whole process of having it open and equal and I guess that I resent that there's all the hard work that a lot of people have put is trying to be washed away by a few people that want to undermine this process.

It rally infects their... Last night we had a steering committee meeting... after that meeting I spent two hours with two of the individuals that were planning it. We talked about consensus bringing people together, working together, they said to me, "When it comes to property rights, there's no working together, there's war." Those were their words, directly out of their mouths, two individuals. My point is, war is either a win/lose or a lose/lose. Common visions is about win/win. As much as we can get. When... when the sponsors of this supposedly meeting have that attitude, I feel like I'm being set up. And I feel like other people are being set up.

**Chair:** ???

**Female voice:** ???

**Chair:** I met with Governor Thompson, governor Wisconsin, and several other Senators and Congressmen and the end results of that meeting was that we don't want it to come from the top down, we want it to come from the grassroots, from the bottom up. And Wisconsin has been going through land use planning county by county and they start with the township. So I can agree with all of that and I can agree with what you're saying, but, if you don't have meetings, how can you ever get together?

**Hurt:** Well, we also had numerous, numerous, numerous meetings with all factions. The property rights issue is one single issue that we've addressed more than any other one single issue over the last year and a half. It's the issue that's had more involvement.

**Male voice:** Sure.

**Bob Hurt:** Period.

**Chair:** Robin, and then over here, and then Dan.

**Robin:** Uh, First of all, a couple of comments. I don't want war either. I recognize this is an explosive issue. I've been reading in the paper and I've seen that you've been having problems. To me, that's not a reason for us not to have a meeting and the meeting is not to undermine you... perhaps it can even serve to relieve some tension... to get some things said in another forum that are not appropriate for your forum, or something like that...

It does not mean that we endorse any particular views and I appreciate the suggestion of the disclaimer and you notice when I introduced it I said this does not mean that we are endorsing any of the ideas... I think that's probably a suggestion worth taking. We at the beginning say

we're not endorsing any of these ideas... we were asked to put these together by a group of citizens.

It has repeatedly said to me this is not supposed to be a war, it's supposed to be informational. There are supposed to be rules and things like that. If you feel railroaded I don't know why, because I didn't call you; nobody from our office called you and, you know, I mean, I don't understand that. You can say yes or no to be part of it, so I don't know why you feel railroaded as being part of it. It is not... I... I understand that uh there are a lot of different personalities involved here, but Edgar has repeatedly said to me, "This is supposed to be informational it is not supposed to be war and disruptive," and that is the intent that people have conveyed to me, repeatedly, so...

**Muffled male voice ???**

**Second male voice:** Just three points, Robin, that come to mind. ??? First off, I'm about as grassroots as you can get ???(muffled)?? and I sense very definitely that there is a struggle between governments being played out at the local base... there's plenty of politics and I would resent people are being used to resolve issues that are much, much greater than they can even comprehend.

One of the most distressing incidents that happened to me was to find out that a body of foresters were very, very actively involved with the property rights /wise use group at the local level and then indeed that the director of forestry in southeastern MN has come out and said expressly what he feels about the rights of property owners and spoke in a very strong way against (?) anything we would call a liberal planning of the environment. Planners are perceived as liberal people, not conservative people, at this time, as you are well aware.

And lastly, I think that there is very definitely abuse and I don't think it's an abuse that can be tolerated. The bottom line are waivers at the local level, but for instance, in a sharp moment I was told that I'd better mark my p's and q's or those local boys might clean up on me. I don't think that's an appropriate thing that would happen in an open planning meeting with reasonable people. I think some of this behavior is...is beyond acceptance.

So I think you have to put yourself in that position and if you do agree to go ahead with this, I would like you to take the responsibility of these issues into the work of the commission.

**Chair:** George, you're next, and then Dan.

**George ? :** I have some similar concerns to what Ken and Bob have expressed. The.. uh... already... I guess I would like to make one important plea to you, that if you do decide to sponsor this meeting, that you do everything you can to make sure it's a fair and impartial meeting where people get equal time to talk and...

I... I... I would plead to you that you seriously consider removing Marilyn Hayman from the agenda. uh... you know... she's a person who is so controversial and I think there are plenty of people here today that would testify to the fact that uh... uh... she has no interest at all in... in... getting truthful information to people. Her presence is purely to incite people, you know, and and play to their fears of...(unfinished statement).

I would be supportive of an informational meeting uh... as far as uh... talking from the MN Land Trust perspective. I would love to get some information out to people as to what we are uh... but I... from what I've been told from people I know and trust, uh... there are people that are planning this meeting as a set up.

Robin, you may not know anything about it, and... and I'm suggesting that maybe some of the people that are giving you information are not... are not telling you what they are planning in the background and uh... **just looking at the people involved** and, and some of the other people that I know from the common visions project that are promoting this meeting, **I firmly believe that it's a set up to destroy the reputation of every group that they've invited.**

**Chair:** ??? muffled comment to next speaker.

**Dan McGuinness:** Thank you. Well, I want to put this in context a little bit as your staff and just to remind you number one that this is a work item on our agenda on page 7 "Continue to involve and implement public forums along the Mississippi River as a way to encourage and enable citizens to participate more fully in public policy and management of river resources and research activities," and we have a bullet under this that says, "Host, alone and in partnership with others, no less than 5 citizens forums along the Upper Mississippi River in 1997"

Having said that I will also say that I remember that... when Robin reminded me at the meeting that was held in Winona, someone did come up to me and ask "Would you host a meeting with a group that... with a landowner rights group?" and I said "Sure." And the reason I said that was because, as you know, I really believe in getting all the cards out on the table so that we can make informed policy decisions. uh... the... So I think hosting a public meeting to meet the purposes that we're describing is an appropriate thing for us to do.

If it's a set up and we're being used, then I think our commission has a reason to be concerned... I mean... if that's true... you know... this is... this is something that you're saying today that needs to be taken into consideration... but if it's for the purposes that Robin understood and Harold understood it to be, certainly it is consistent with our work program but.. as a public agency, unlike a private or non-profit... I shouldn't say unlike... **we're very accountable to... to the Governors' offices, and to the legislatures that fund us,** so I think it's... it's kinda like Daniel walking into the Lion's Den (ha... hahaha) you know we are walking into a hotbed here of a very potential and volatile situation. Whether we shy away from it because it's volatile is a question we have to deal with.

But I think it's also important to realize that any time we do anything with our name associated with it, people will take that and run with it and we're gonna hafta... we're not only gonna hafta answer to you, but **we have to answer to, of all people, Sen. Steve Morse, on Friday, when we go to our budget hearing.** (Ha) I mean, **we are in a situation where we're answerable to a lot of people** and so I... I think it's incredibly clear if we host this meeting it... uh... it be... uh... presented and held as a meeting open to all points of view without promoting any particular point of view and that this is a free and open exchange.

**Chair:** Eric,.... (muffled, cut short)

**Eric McBeth:** Thank you Mr. Chairman I've been kinda quiet for a while listening to all the comments. uh... I'm not going to pull any punches here... and I would love to be proved wrong, and I... uh... **clearly have some emotional connection with this issue.. I'm emotional about it,** but my statement to you is that, again, I would hope to be proved wrong, but I think, my perspective of this, from the time I very first heard about it, is the commission is being used... the commission's name is being used to basically foreword the hidden agenda of this meeting... and my perspective is this landowners' rights issue has had a kinda quiet time for a while and this meeting is going to serve to recharge some engines... and if I were to recommend, as your staff, a meeting that would be serving the function that I think we would

like to have served here, I would not have set up the agenda as I see it with someone like Marilyn Hayman being the information expert on the Mississippi corridor. She has misstated facts from the very beginning on this issue, she continues to do so, and she is not an authority of what's going on with this matter. Uh... I have seen the Boundary Area Commission from 1990 be used, through me, uh... to discredit our organization and what we have stood for and what we have tried to do on this issue and I see it happening again.

Chair: (??? muffled)

**Woman's voice:** Eric voiced my opinion very strongly and I've had some experience with the person being discussed (Transcriber - Who? When? Where?) and I also know we had a meeting up at Hudson where an official from the planning commission in the local area begged to have help with controlling people who disrupt meetings and allow no business to be carried on.

When I saw that... title, with that particular person, I agree with you Eric, I thought absolutely no connection and I have had experience, I'm from St. Paul and boy we have some whoop-dee-doo meetings there and I don't know as much about your complications down here, but we have had someone just like that and we've had to bear it for years at various kinds of meetings, and what it also does, when someone sees a name of that reputation on an agenda, you immediately have cut out a whole scope of people that you would have liked to have come and I think that's a big danger, also. And that's my observation

Chair: ??? and then Reggie

**Male Voice:** Mr. Chairman it seems we basically have two choices. Either withdraw our endorsement and our participation and that's a fairly straight-forward, stand along proposition or to take control of the process and control as meaning??? a faction ??? to save our good name.

If we were to do that, it seems to me we would have to do a number of specific steps.

>We would, of course, have to open the meeting as this agenda indicates, and indicate no BAC endorsement, and we would have to close the meeting so we get the opening and closing words.

>In addition, we would have to control the crowd by having one microphone at the front so there could only be one speaker at a time, only one amplified, questions from the audience would be repeated by the person at the microphone.

>Make an official video tape so that any attempt to take people out of context could subsequently be disproved,

>Have registration at the only entrance to the hall, so that everyone who comes in could be identified, subsequently ... and, I would suggest, although the time is tight, with only two weeks,

>Insist upon advanced copies of everyone's planned speech so that who ever is running the meeting could say that is outside of the scope of what you were invited to discuss, or I've got to cut you off.

I could go either way on those, recognizing the importance of carrying out our work plan of providing an open forum.

Chair: Reggie's next

**Reggie:** I think that when you co-sponsor a meeting, it means more than just loaning your name. You have a responsibility to being alerted to some of the possibilities of this. Uh... You gotta do something.

The fact that Ken said he's the head of a group that is listed as being a sponsor, that is probably not a sponsor, definitely ??? and I think at the very least, someone should contact all of these alleged sponsors and make certain that they are, in fact, official sponsors, and ask them what their sponsorship implies. and if any of them are not official sponsors... and I'd ask for something back on letterhead paper, you know, uh... if any of them aren't sponsors, I think it would be interesting to ??? the meeting and mention the fact. and it sounds to me like some of the groups that are putting this meeting together have decided deliberately not to answer ??? the list of sponsors and that's another red flag

And I just think maybe it's your responsibility to sponsor a follow up on some of this stuff and figure out what's happening on that level, because this is a lot of clout... these organizations have a lot of clout and they're trying to capitalize on that.

**Chair:** Jim, you're next.

**Jim (Harrison?):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is purely informational and should be taken for what it says uh... because our office has been asked to help in publicizing this meeting and we worked with Robin and we talked with ??? I'm sorry I can't remember his last name, but the gentleman we contacted yesterday about the ????? a certain part of the mailing list and the compilation that Robin agreed to put together a mailing list, based on lists we already had, and lists we were furnished. That encompassed the media, local government, well government in general, including legislators and Robin made this very clear that **Sen. Morse, who not only is the chair of the budget division and represents the district effected by this meeting, but is also, perhaps, plans to sponsor... is the chief author of state-wide land use planning... uh... contacted our office yesterday... I wasn't able to receive the call directly, and on the basis of his staff call and said, the note said, "Information about the land use planning" and Robin had indicated that Sen. Morse was invited to come but because of the time during a legislative day, he cannot personally attend, nor can anyone from his staff.**

I faxed this last night, before I got home to his office and so they would know what the meeting was about. I assumed that they wanted to know something. I called now, at the request of the staff, and I... she said... and I'll tell you what she said... **Sen. Morse thinks it's somewhat inappropriate for the commission to be doing this. uh... He also feels that the meeting is not being located in a county in our jurisdiction, (aside) Is Rushford in Fillmore county? Voice "Yes"... I mean, we advertise our jurisdiction to be the border counties. We work on a broader basis, but that's his statement. Uh... and he wants to know before the (legislative budget) hearing tomorrow, what's our role in this meeting and how much money are we devoting to it. ( Multiple laughs) That's his request.**

**Chair:** That's okay...uh.. I think we should cut it off at this point... ....  
Then I suggest we revisit this issue before we conclude...

Next item on agenda, Stillwater bridge was not transcribed, but tape was nearly done.  
End of side.

Next side did not continue with bridge, rather sounded like beginning of the Commission meeting. About 1/4 in of tape had run, **the commission again addressed the Rushford meeting.** This sounds like the beginning of the meeting:

**George Howe:** I'm here representing the MN Land Trust and uh... my... my concern particularly today is that uh... I don't see it on your agenda, but I was told you were going to discuss a land use planning meeting coming up at Rushford MN that... there are certain flyers going around that say that the MW Boundary Commission is a sponsor. I don't know how many of you know about this but I assume if you're sponsoring it you know about this meeting, but... uh... we had... Bob and Ken and I had some concerns about this meeting, and I don't know if we can talk about that on the agenda today or not

**Chair:** I... I have been asked by Robin to attend that meeting. I do not know that we're sponsoring that.

Male voice interrupting: That's what it says here.

Female voice We are

**Chair:** She says we are. ( Voice ??? Okay.) We can discuss it. Bob?

**Hurt, H-u-r-t:** Thank you. I'm Bob Hurt, owner of Architectural Environments and I'm heading up the sister project Ken Tschumper just alluded to, the Common Visions project in Winona County, City of LaCrescent, LaCrescent Township and I'm here basically for the same reason...we've been informed about a meeting and we have some questions about that the Boundary Area is sponsoring or supposed to be sponsoring and we get a lot of information???? and some questions.... (trails off)

**Chair:** All right.

**Unidentified male:** I would like to add my name to the concern of that particular meeting. ??? (low volume)

**Female voice:** As a member of the board, don't you... perhaps we should clarify what that means? by sponsoring?

**Second female voice:** I'll be glad to speak to that... Whenever you want to put it on the agenda

**Chair:** Yah, because I've never... I've never heard of it coming through one of our meetings. We sponsor a lot of...uh... public meeting for informational purposes, but I haven't heard of this one.

**Robin** Yah, this is one I talked to you about. Could I speak to this?

**Chair:** Sure. I know you told me I was invited, but not...

**Male voice...** Point of order. Don't we have a motion on the floor to approve the work plan?

**Chair:** I think we better move to that...Motions, voting, etc. followed. then

Robin what I was trying to say was, Yes, you called me... and I said I would be there, but I did not know we were sponsoring the meeting. I didn't know that.

**Robin:** Okay

**Chair:** (After several comments from floor) Let's move on then to 4c and this other issue we'll bring up at the... other comments... other commissioners and staff reports.

**Male voice:** Mr. Chairman, Point of order. In deference to the people who are here for that item of discussion, do you necessarily want to put it off until 2:45?

**Male voice (Harrison?):** No, they're here. Let's do it before lunch.

**Chair:** All right. It won't take very long.

Revise agenda

Land use planning meeting after the bridge.

**Chair:** Take up an additional 3d at this time. Robin...

**Robin:** The meeting that's being publicized and I'll pass this out, actually grew out of something we did about 15 months ago. We had a Planners Forum, held at St. Mary's in December, that would have been in '94 and we at that time indicated a commitment to helping local organizations and to co-sponsor with local organizations further meetings with respect to the river and land use planning, as well... and someone specifically asked us, "Will you co-sponsor a meeting with a land rights group?" and we said, Yes, we would. That does not mean that we endorse the views of any group that we are co-sponsoring with.

We said we would do this because of a public service and Edgar Hangsden has several times mentioned to me that he was looking forward to doing something like that. He called me in January saying that he and a number of citizens... he did not represent a group, this was grassroots... would like very much for me and Bob Mallaley, actually, rather than staff, because they wanted local people to co-sponsor as moderators to create balance, so we are not endorsing any views we are there to be moderators at was supposed to be an informational meeting.

He said a lot of people needed to understand better the initiatives that are going on and I said I thought this was something we could do because it was in our work program that said we were going to be co-sponsoring meetings. I believe I have mentioned in the process that people said they were looking forward to this, so I checked with the office and they said they saw it as within our work program and I called you and I said, you know, this is what's being asked and um... they would appreciate you being there as well and this is tentative and I noticed that Carol didn't get on the agenda but they wanted you to spend a few minutes talking about what the BAC is.

I envisioned ourselves as clarifying the purpose of the meeting, moderating, also clarifying our roles here which is to moderate. This is not a meeting in which we would be seeking input in order to create public policy. This is a meeting where we are facilitating the output of information and questioning, and I recognize this is a very explosive issue in the area, and I see a need for a non-explosive meeting...um... and I had some calls...

Edgar called me this morning in fact, and he said among other things, "Do you have the same concerns that I have?" and I said, "Well I have some concerns, what are yours?" and he said that he didn't want the meeting to get out of hand and he said, "I'm a sales person, I cannot afford a meeting that gets out of hand." and I see this as our job to make this an informational meeting and he has promised, he said the people that are on his planning committee... I met with them a couple of weeks ago... they are all concerned, too, that it not get out of hand.



They want this to be fair and open, they do not want to set people up to come down, we would like this to be an informational meeting and I recognize the explosive nature of this issue and I am hopeful this can be an informational meeting for... and it seems to me that... I Was thinking for example the first questions should come from people who are not on the common visions steering board, since they have plenty of opportunity to ask questions at your meetings, uh... so that's where it is. We did agree to be co-sponsors within our work program, in a sense of moderators, not in the sense of endorsing and not in the sense that we are responsible for taking any of the ideas expressed and doing anything with them.

Chair: Just to add to that, part of our work program is to communicate with, hopefully educate, the public, the agencies of what is happening or what people feel. We're not created to create law... we can't... we're here to act as a catalyst, if we can...we're here to ....

End of this side of tape.

Chamberlain Research Consultants

**CRC**

4801 Forest Run Rd., Ste. #101 Madison, WI 53704 (608) 246-3010 Fax 246-3019

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**September 1<sup>st</sup> Legislation  
Wisconsin Tourism Federation**

*Report prepared for:*  
**Wisconsin Tourism Federation  
January 1999**

# September 1<sup>st</sup> Legislation Wisconsin Tourism Federation

## Methodology

Chamberlain Research Consultants, a marketing and opinion research firm in Madison, Wisconsin, was commissioned by the Wisconsin Tourism Federation in October 1998. The purpose of the study was to measure support for legislation that would require all public schools (K-12) to start school after September 1.

All 600 of the interviews were conducted by telephone between October 21 and November 1, 1998. The maximum margin of error for a 600 sample binomial (i.e. Yes/No) survey item is  $\pm 3.97$  using a 95% confidence interval.

Of the 600 respondents, 98 either refused to answer the question or had no opinion on the matter. The maximum margin of error for a 502 sample binomial (i.e. Yes/No) survey item is  $\pm 4.34$  using a 95% confidence interval.

Ten percent of the interviews were monitored or called back by supervisory staff to verify accuracy. All data entry and verbatim codes were double checked and cleaned to insure accuracy.

## Detailed Findings

Respondents were asked their level of support or opposition to a proposal that all public schools, grades kindergarten through twelve be required to start the school year after September 1<sup>st</sup>. Respondents were told that such a proposal would not impact the total number of school days and that local school boards would be entitled to select the exact start date.

Figure 1 provides a breakout of support and opposition on this issue. Sixty-seven percent were at least somewhat supportive of the measure, leaving 17% who expressed at least some opposition to the idea.

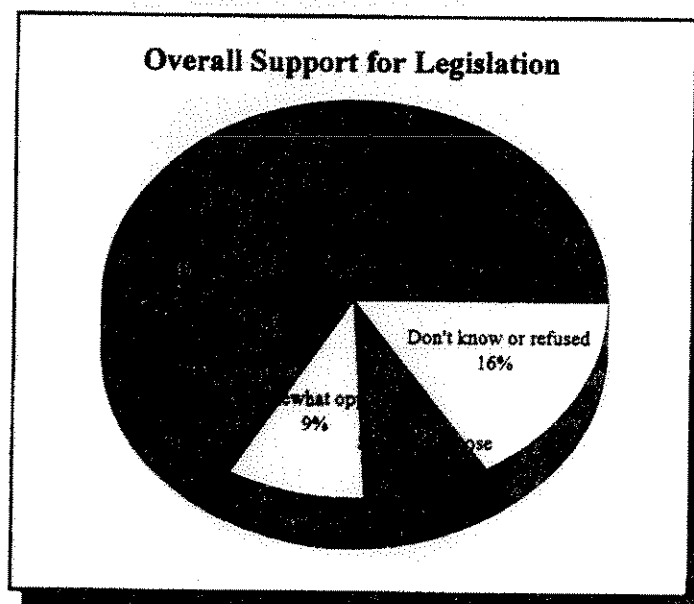
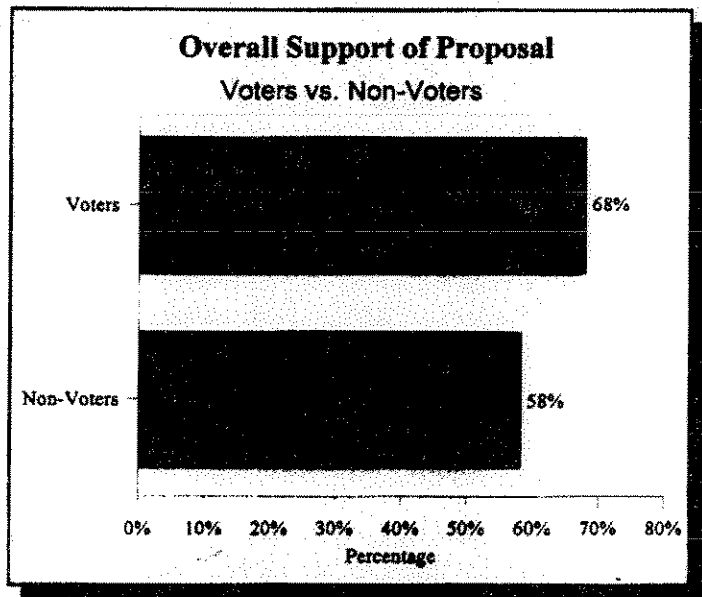


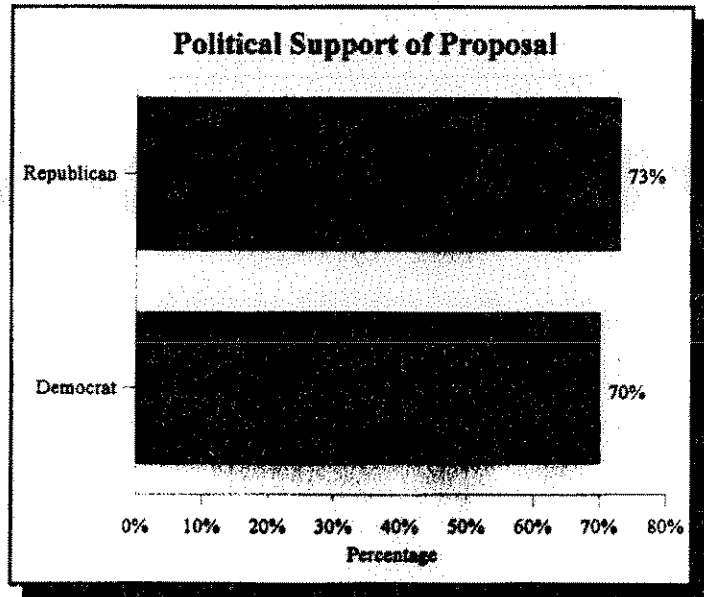
Figure 1

Support for the proposal was strong among voters. Two-thirds (67%) of respondents who say they vote in every election were at least somewhat supportive of the September start date. Likewise, figures were similar with respondents who try to vote in every election (69%) and those who vote in only the major races (68%). Among non-voters, support was somewhat lower (58%). Figure 2 compares the overall support of voters and non-voters.

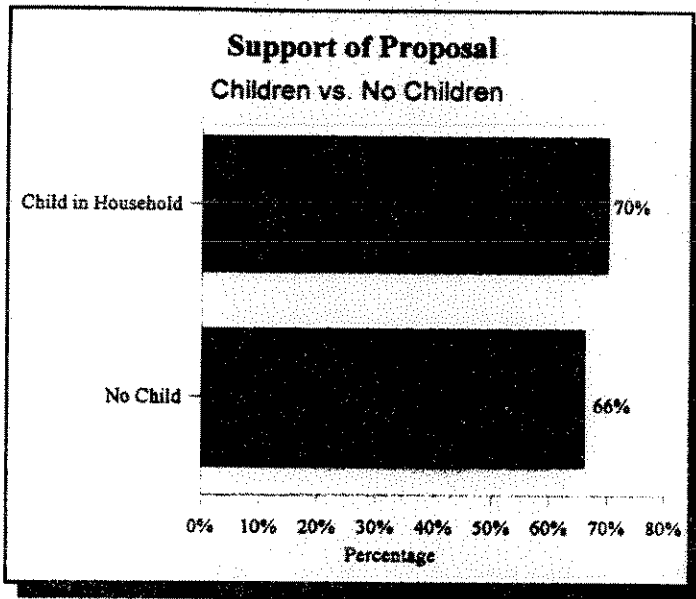


**Figure 2-** The percentages represent those who strongly support or somewhat support the legislation. Voters: n=545, Non-Voters: n=55.

Figure 3 shows support for the proposal along political party lines was non-partisan. Seventy percent of the respondents who say they typically vote Democrat and 73% of those who say they tend to vote Republican were at least somewhat supportive of the September 1 start date.

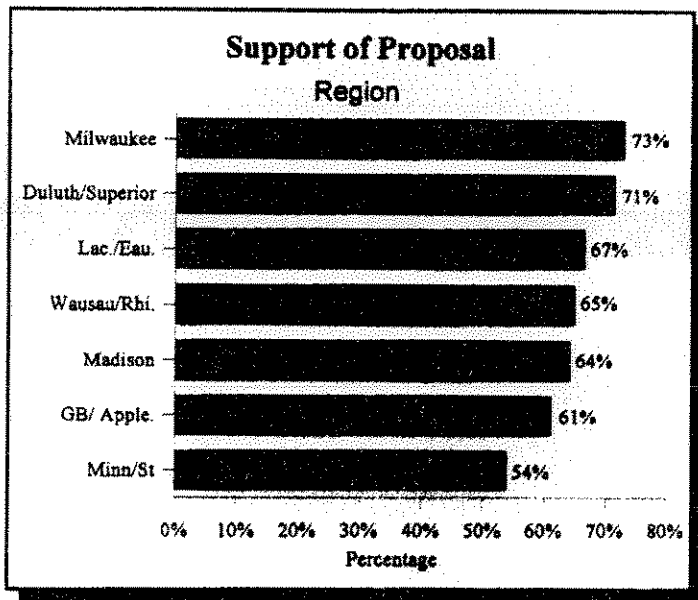


**Figure 3 -** The percentages represent those who strongly support or somewhat support the legislation. Democrat: n=186, Republican: n=155.



**Figure 4** - The percentages represent those who strongly support or somewhat support the legislation. Children in Household: n=207, No Child: n=388.

Support was equally strong among respondents with school age children and those without school age children. As figure 4 shows 70% of respondents with children under 18 years of age were at least somewhat supportive of the late start date. Sixty-six percent of those with no school age children in the household were at least somewhat supportive of the proposal.



**Figure 5** - The percentages represent those who strongly support or somewhat support the legislation.

Support of the proposal was high in all regions of Wisconsin. Support in the Milwaukee region was the highest, where 73% of respondents at least somewhat supported the September start date. Figure 5 shows respondent support in the various regions of the State.



## WISCONSIN TOURISM FEDERATION

### Members

American Automobile Assoc.  
Assoc. of Wisconsin Tourism  
Attractions  
Golf Course Owners of  
Wisconsin  
Outdoor Advertising Assoc.  
of Wisconsin  
Tavern League of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin All Terrain Vehicle  
Association  
Wisconsin Association of  
Campground Owners  
Wisc. Assoc. of Convention  
& Visitors Bureaus  
Wisconsin Dells Visitors &  
Convention Bureau  
Wisconsin Grocers Assoc.  
Wisconsin Innkeepers  
Association  
Wisconsin Manufacturers &  
Commerce  
Wisconsin Restaurant  
Association  
Wisconsin Wholesale Beer  
Distributors Association

### School Calendar Proposal Means \$66 Million for Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Tourism Federation (WTF) supports Governor Thompson's budget proposal calling for a post-September 1 school opening date. The Governor's proposal has significant fiscal impact on the state and local units of governments and ought to be considered by the Legislature as part of the budget deliberations. Economic research conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Tourism shows that by adopting the Governor's proposal, tourist traffic in Wisconsin would increase by approximately **\$66 million, resulting in additional state tax collections of \$6.4 million and local tax collections of \$4.6 million.** The Governor's proposal is also consistent with the following tourism trends:

1. A 1997 field study, conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, identified the time of year that people were most likely to vacation in Wisconsin. The highest frequency months mentioned were June at 34%, July at 56%, and August at 57%. Based on the data, there is a high probability that many who have not yet vacationed will choose the last two weeks of August to do so.
2. Based upon economic research conducted during August 1998, there is a decline in occupancy rates from 79% during the first two weeks of August to 67% during the last two weeks of August. This includes both business and leisure travel throughout the state. It can be deduced that this decline is primarily the result of families with children returning home for the new school year.
3. National and state trends indicate four-day extended weekends are becoming more of the norm for family vacations. Shortened vacation length has created more opportunities for families to take multiple vacations within the preferred summer season.
4. According to Carol Seefeldt, a specialist in early child education at the University of Maryland, structured activities such as pre-school, ballet, sports and other activities are fine as long as children have time to play. Family vacations provide children with a great opportunity to play and the time to bond with other family members.
5. The limitation of available family time for vacationing or other opportunities for families to unite in quality time has been substantially diminished over the past decade.
6. A recent public opinion poll found that 67% of Wisconsin residents favored a post-September 1 school start date, while 17% opposed it and 16% were undecided.

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The Federation of Wisconsin Hospitality/Tourism/Recreation Groups

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44 E. Mifflin St., Suite 101, Madison, WI 53703 • 608-286-9599 • Fax 608-286-0766

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# Daily Tribune

Randy Graf/President and CEO  
Helen Jungwirth/Associate Publisher  
Thomas G. Knwright/Managing Editor  
Founded May 23, 1914

## OUR VIEW

### Later school start is a good proposal September opening of school would help tourism without harming education

**S**tarting school a few weeks later in the fall shouldn't cause the end of the world. The Wisconsin Tourism Federation is pushing for legislation to require all public schools, grades kindergarten to 12, to start the school year after Sept. 1, which is one to two weeks later than classes typically now begin.

The later start would give the tourism industry a few more weeks of very good weather that would be conducive to family vacations. It also would enable tourism-related employers to keep their seasonal workers (typically high school and college students) longer.

The federation isn't advocating other restrictions, so the end of the school year, interim vacation periods and periodic days off would remain up to local control. Districts still would have to come up with the required number of student-contact days, but there would be numerous options, including shortening Christmas vacation or spring break.

Opposition is being heard from some school boards, which contend this would reduce local control. They also note that the school calendar usually is a bargaining point in labor negotiations with teachers' unions.

The federation previously had pushed for a school-start date after Labor Day, which this year is Sept. 6. The group, which represents tourist attractions, restaurants and lodging businesses, has scaled that back to Sept. 1.

It seems like a reasonable request.

Gov. Tommy Thompson has endorsed the concept, effective with the 2001-02 school year, and some good debate on the issue could occur in the Legislature this year.

A public survey commissioned by the federation in October showed 87 percent were at least somewhat supportive of starting school after Sept. 1. Only 17 percent expressed any opposition and 16 percent didn't have an opinion on the issue.

Wisconsin's tourism industry is worth \$1.7 billion a year, and 70 percent were at least somewhat supportive of the proposal.

Most of the region's greatest support for the measure came from the Milwaukee area (73 percent), followed by Duluth/Superior, La Crosse/Sau Claire, Wausau/Rhinelander (64 percent), Green Bay/Appleton and the Wisconsin area near Minneapolis/St. Paul (54 percent).

The federation estimates there is a \$66 million loss in tourism-related revenue because school starts in the two weeks before Sept. 1. Recovering that money would boost tax revenue, so the state would benefit.

Another thing to consider is that the last two weeks of August typically are very warm and humid in Wisconsin. Pushing back the start of school could reduce the discomfort level and improve the learning environment at that critical start of the school year.

Federation representatives don't expect any effect on fall sports schedules, and they see this start date as being more consistent with the University of Wisconsin System.

A study committee of the Wisconsin Legislative Council is researching the topic of school calendars in general. Its third meeting is scheduled for next week. Perhaps when it issues its report, possibly this spring, there will be further evidence that a start date after Sept. 1 makes sense.

The federation contends this proposal would not hurt public education in Wisconsin. Many federation members have school-age children, so they wouldn't recommend this proposal purely for financial reasons.

Let's see what the study committee comes up with, but for now, it would appear the tourism people have a good proposal that's worth approving in the Legislature.

Testimony presented to the Legislative Joint Finance Committee  
Wednesday, April 14, 1999 – Osceola High School, Osceola, WI  
By Terry J. Mesch, Recycling/Solid Waste Coordinator-Pepin County

I am coordinator of the recycling/solid waste program for a small, rural, Wisconsin county of 7,200 people, who know recycling is the right thing to do and I don't have to spend much time explaining its benefits. I do, however, have to explain to them the economics...Pepin County, like many other municipalities in the state, does not charge residents for recycling and most of the county's citizens naively believe recycling is free because it "pays for itself." As yet, I have not had to ask them how much they would be willing to pay to continue to be able to recycle. I do know that, if the opportunity to recycle is taken away, they will loudly voice their objections.

If funding would end, services will decrease or be eliminated. Not only does the state mandate the landfill bans, it also mandates spending restraints on counties and school districts, many of which, like Pepin County, may already have reached the limits allowed. With state and federal governments boasting about huge revenue surpluses while at the same time threatening reductions in funding to local governments for mandated programs, you can't be surprised at rising levels of frustration among local officials and the citizenry.

I am also the current president of the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin. AROW has always supported state funding of recycling. Most recently, the AROW board voted unanimously to support a sales tax on solid waste services and a landfill tipping fee surcharge as the best sources of revenue for continued state funding.

I don't think we need to discuss if recycling should continue...we've all heard that the people of Wisconsin love to recycle and want to continue to recycle.

The question is: Who should pay for recycling? Who should pay for solid waste disposal? Clearly, those who generate the garbage and create the demand for solid waste management are the ones who ultimately should pay for it! But, who is the generator? Is it the consumer alone? Business and industry, who claim, "We're only providing consumers with what they want.", can no longer pander to the transient tastes of consumers and continue to disregard the resultant adverse social and environmental impacts.



Funding and management of recycling presents a wonderful opportunity for that often talked-about public-private partnership. Government must be the conscience and guide the planning and development of recycling and management of the earth's resources. Funding must be placed squarely on the consumer. And implementation, that is the development of infrastructure and adequate markets, belongs with manufacturing and business. Since business and industry encourage and exploit consumerism, they share responsibility for making recycling work.

A sales tax on solid waste services and, more particularly, the landfill tipping fee surcharge, provide a source of funding directly related to the amount of waste generated and encourages waste reduction and recycling. The sales tax on solid waste services provides a stable revenue source. Both the sales tax and tipping fee surcharge would be relatively easy to administer. Use of the sales tax on solid waste services would reduce the need for a high tipping fee surcharge, thus making it easier for municipalities to afford. Both these sources would encourage high volume generators to research and develop more economically viable and environmentally friendly waste management options. The precedents for landfill fees have been set in our neighboring states, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois, and many others. When compared to average disposal fees in other states which can easily exceed \$50 per ton, some approaching \$100 per ton, even the addition of Senator Burke's suggestion of \$13/ton to Wisconsin's current average of \$30, does not seem exorbitant. Such an increase would also provide some disincentive for out-of-state waste disposal in Wisconsin.

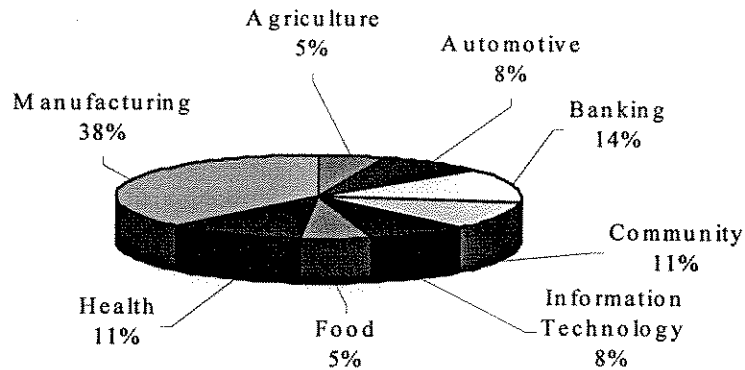
In the end, it will take government, manufacturing, business and the consumer to make recycling work. Paying for recycling must eventually move beyond the simple cost-sharing grants provided by the state! But until manufacturing and business are ready to voluntarily participate, government must intervene on behalf of an increasingly fragile environment, limited natural resources and an already overburdened property taxpayer.

#

The following Western Wisconsin businesses will create a regional, business-led consortia:

Region	Industry Type	Business	Contact	No. of Employees
Westby	Agriculture	Accelerated Genetic	Dave Larson/Roger Hanson	25-49
Arcadia	Agriculture/ Manufacturing	Gold 'N Plump Poultry	George Hanson	500-999
La Crosse	Auto	Bob's Auto Techno	Bob Marconi	Less than 10
New Lisbon	Auto	Rudig Jensen Ford-Mercury	Mark Rudig	20
Viroqua	Auto	Jim Olson Ford-Mercury Inc.	Jim Olson	10-20
La Crosse	Banking	Coulee State Bank	Dirk Gasterland	25-50
La Crosse	Banking	State Bank of La Crosse	Lisa Arndt	100-249
Mauston	Banking	Bank of Mauston	Lynn Erickson	25-50
Westby	Banking	Fortress Bank	Shirley Hagen	25-50
Whitehall	Banking	Associated Bank	Viola Jacobson	10-49
La Crosse	Community	Business & Student Education Committee	Jerry Berns/Paul Winans	NA
La Crosse	Community	LADCO	Jim Hill	Less than 10
Sparta	Community	Sparta Chamber of Commerce	Sharon Folcey	Less than 10
Tomah	Community	Tomah Chamber of Commerce	Eric Prise	Less than 10
Caledonia, MN	Information Technology	Winnebago Software Co.	Nancy Hager	250-499
La Crosse	Information Technology	Electronic Data Systems	Dawn Davis	50-100
La Crosse	Information Technology	Firstlogic	Kevin Murtha	250-499
La Crosse	Food	Kwik Trip	Amy Hansen	500-999
Whitehall	Food	Whitehall Specialties	Kristy Abrahamson	100-249
La Crosse	Health	Mayo/Franciscan Skemp Healthcare	Joan Mueller	1,000+
La Crosse	Health	Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center	Jill Blokhuis	1,000+
Mauston	Health	Hess Memorial Hospital	Carol Purvis	250-499
Tomah	Health	VA Medical Center	Kathy Fasbender	100-249
Arcadia	Manufacturing	Ashley Furniture	Lara Mc Rae	1,000+
Arcadia	Manufacturing	Nelson Muffler	Dave McKeeth	100-249
Black River Falls	Manufacturing	D&S Manufacturing Co.	Larry Hossen	100-249
La Crosse	Manufacturing	Badger Corrugating	Mike/Katherine Sexhauer	100-249
La Crosse	Manufacturing	Trane	Art Scheskie	1,000+
Mauston	Manufacturing	Brunner Manufacturing	Ron Brunner Sr.	100-249
Mauston	Manufacturing	Vacuum Platers Inc.	Vivian Gbower	100-249
Necedah	Manufacturing	Necedah Screw Machine	Kelly Jump	50-99
Tomah	Manufacturing	CARDINAL IG	Oak Moser	250-499
Tomah	Manufacturing	CARDINAL TG	Marshall Bosworth	100-249
Tomah	Manufacturing	MECA SPORTS	Debra Vrana	100-249
Tomah	Manufacturing	OCEAN SPRAY	Mike Scott	100-249
Tomah	Manufacturing	UNION CAMP	Ann Kelley	100-249
Tomah	Manufacturing	USEMCO Inc	Pat Rezin	100-249

**Percentage of Industry Mix in Business-Led Consortium**



Labor market needs of the area indicate a shortage of employees in jobs that are needed to sustain and grow the economic health of western Wisconsin. Other than La Crosse County, the population of surrounding counties is classified as rural, small town and the economy is highly dependent on these industries.

**Western Wisconsin's Largest Employers**

County	Top Industry	Employers	Employment
Buffalo	Motor Freight Transit	22	1,192
Buffalo	Health Services	4	372
La Crosse	Health Services	187	8,229
La Crosse	Eating and Drinking Establishment	385	4,990
Trempealeau	Furniture and Fixtures	12	2,076
Trempealeau	Health Services	29	990
Vernon	Health Services	34	932
Monroe	Health Services	37	1,782
Jackson	Motor Freight Transit	25	691
Juneau	Electronics & Electrical Equipment	5	1,109
Juneau	Fabricated Metals	15	994

Consortia Offers Career Pathways

Members of the business-led consortia offer jobs that provide pathways to high-wage careers. Those employers participating in the consortia represent a variety of employment opportunities—both large and small companies. Those industries represented include: agriculture, automotive, banking, computer, food service, health, and manufacturing. By including employers from all of these fields, this project will afford students opportunities to experience work-based learning in a variety of areas.

**SAVE THE STATE/COUNTY**  
**PARTNERSHIP**

Presented by: John C. Krizek  
St. Croix County Administrative Coordinator

## History at Your Door

### SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

As part of our 150th anniversary celebration, we invite you to tell us about your memories of the Pioneer Press and its people. We'll share many of them in our April commemorative issue. Please mail them to Pioneer Press Memories at 345 Cedar St., St. Paul, Minn. 55101, or e-mail us at [history@pioneerpress.com](mailto:history@pioneerpress.com)

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1999

# WISCONSIN

## Inside

LOTTERY	4C
WISCONSIN QUIZ	4C
MATT POMMER	4C
DEATHS	5C

SECTION C

# Booming St. Croix County outgrows all competitors

JENNIFER BARTOG ASSOCIATED PRESS

**A**n influx of people from the Twin Cities area made St. Croix County Wisconsin's fastest-growing county last year, while Waukesha County gained the most people, a census report released Friday shows.

The U.S. Census Bureau information, based on population estimates, details rate of growth for each of Wisconsin's counties and also how many actual people the county gained from July 1997 to

July 1998.

The figures show St. Croix County in western Wisconsin had a population increase of 2.6 percent, to 58,936. That is the highest rate of growth among the state's 72 counties.

"That right there is the influence of the Twin Cities," said Marc Perry, a Census Bureau analyst. "That's where you have Minneapolis-St. Paul expanding outward, and it happens to have crossed the state line."

Waukesha County, west of Milwaukee, is experiencing similar growth, the fig-

ures show. In terms of overall new people in the community, the county added 4,730 people, bumping its population up to 553,110, the report said.

Officials from both counties said they are trying to balance the growth so that it does not diminish the quality of life in the communities.

"It's always a double-edged sword," said Waukesha County executive Dan Finley. "The growth is great. It means Waukesha County is dynamic and vibrant, but growth comes with costs, particularly in transportation and

schools."

Many school districts in the county have had to either add schools or classrooms over the past several years, Finley said.

The same is true for schools in St. Croix County, said planner Ellen Denzer. More people also means more demand for services such as road repair, snow plows and the courts, she said.

A growing population also has had good effects on the county, she said. Businesses are moving to the county, unemployment is low and the standard of

living has increased, she said.

"We have growing pains that come along with growth and they can't be avoided," Denzer said. "I think the positive things have outweighed the negatives."

Both counties are working to prevent the growth from becoming urban sprawl. Waukesha County has a master plan that officials can use to determine where to build and St. Croix County is working on a similar plan.

GROWTH CONTINUED ON 6C 1

## GROWTH

▼ CONTINUED FROM 1C

At the other end of the spectrum, Milwaukee County saw a decrease in its population from 1997 to 1998 of 6,475, down to 911,713, or a loss of 0.7 percent.

Cities and central cities typically have a slow population growth, so Milwaukee County is not that unusual, said Paul Voss, a demographer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

As a whole, the state's population growth has been fairly steady over the last decade or so, said Donald Harrier, chief of the state's demography services.

"In Wisconsin the truth of the matter is we're not growing as fast as the overall country is," Harrier said. "That doesn't mean

**"It's always a double-edged sword. The growth is great. It means Waukesha County is dynamic and vibrant, but growth comes with costs, particularly in transportation and schools."**

DAN FINLEY  
WAUKESHA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

we're growing slow. It doesn't mean we're growing stagnant. But we're still growing at a steady, moderate pace."

Overall, the Census Bureau estimates showed the state's population grew by 22,274 people to about 5.2 million, a rate of about 0.4 percent.

That puts Wisconsin 28th in the nation when it comes to the total number of new people in the state and 33rd in terms of rate of growth.

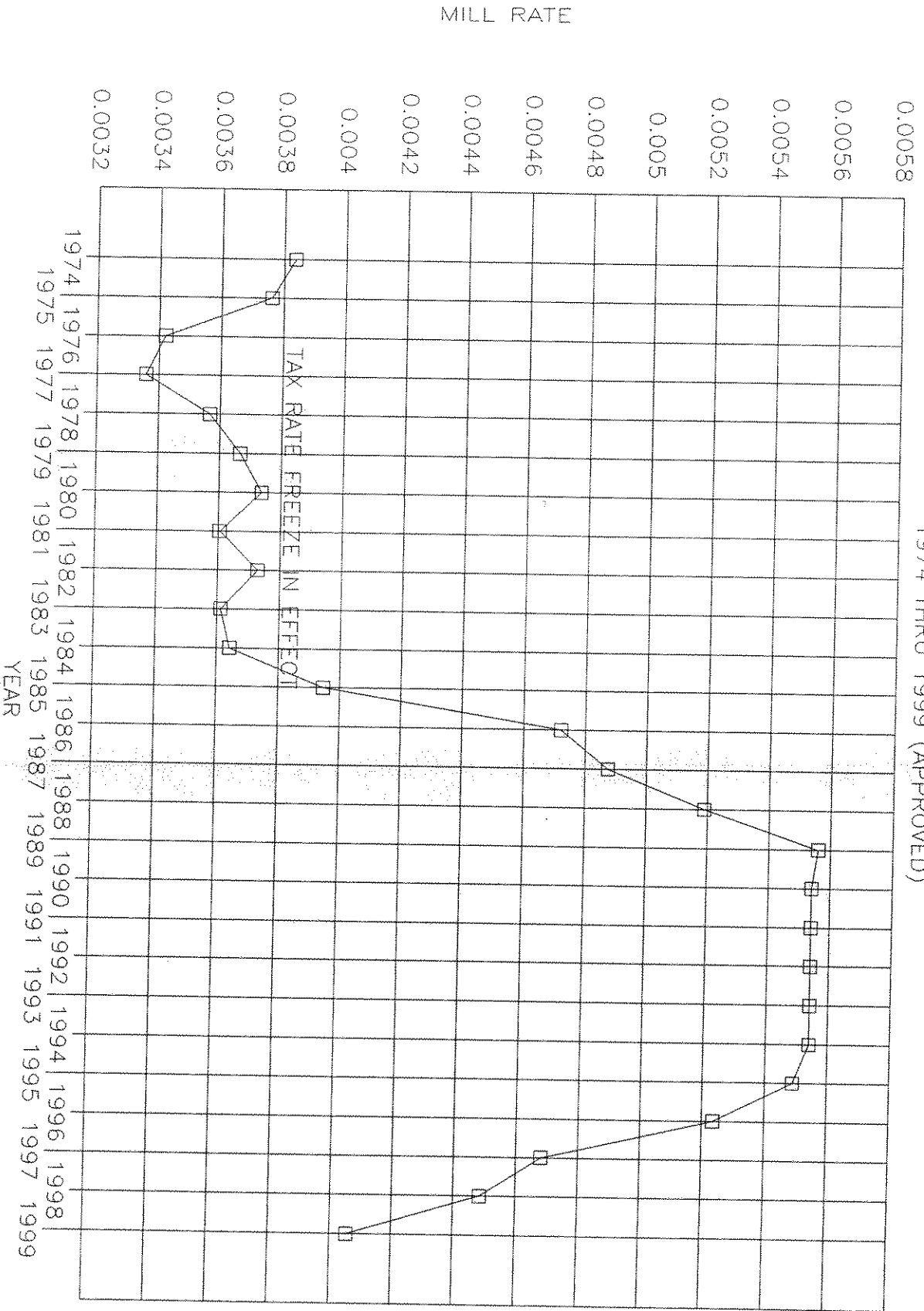
A slower growth rate is not all bad, said Brian Dixon, a spokesman for Zero Population Growth, a Washington, D.C.-based lobbying group that promotes spending on family-planning services as a way to keep the population from increasing.

That does not put stress on social services and allows businesses to provide jobs, Dixon said.

The fact that Wisconsin is growing slower than the rest of the country "is probably a good thing," he said. "I think people in Wisconsin like it that way."

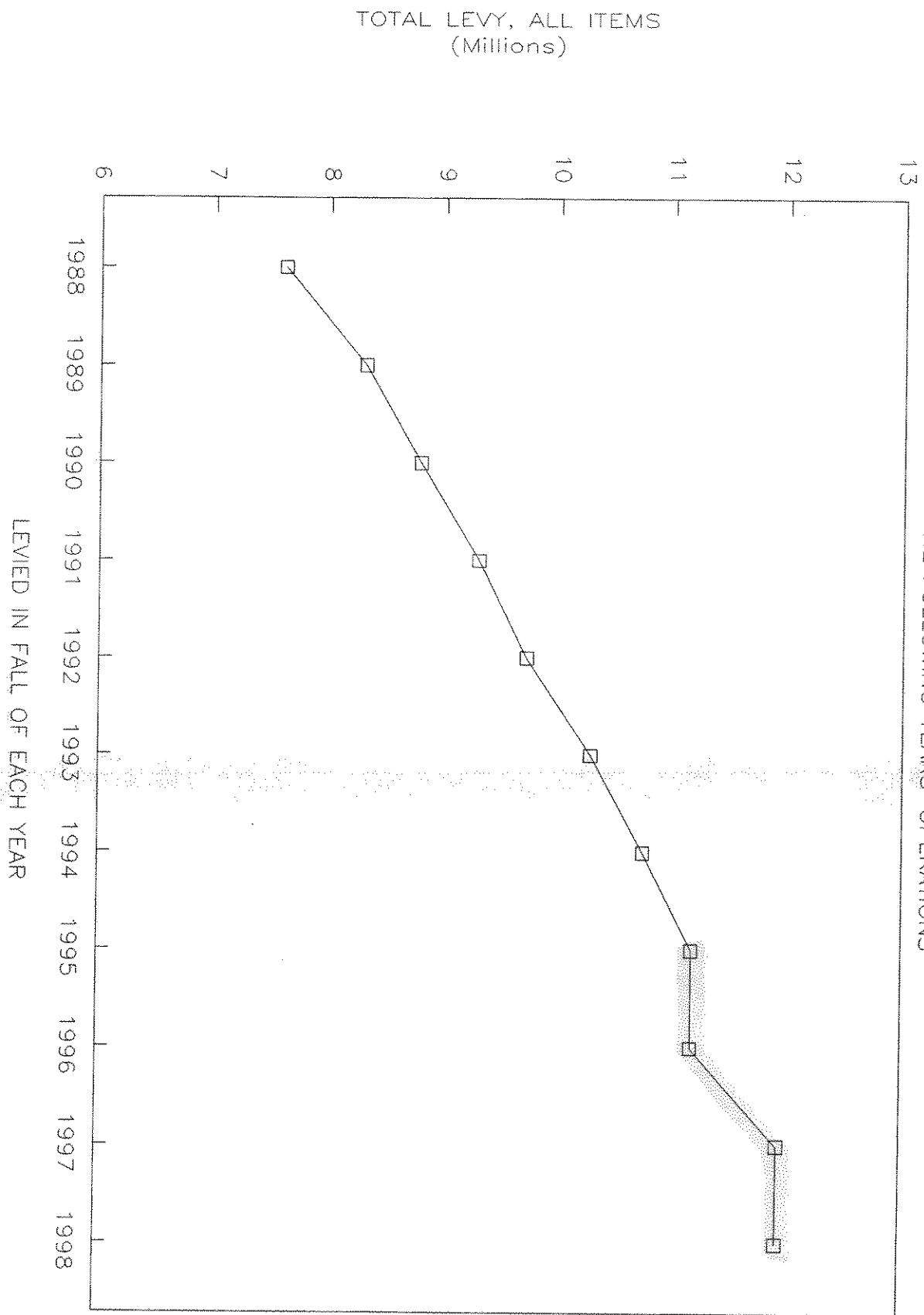
# ST. CROIX COUNTY MILL RATE COMPARISON

1974 THRU 1999 (APPROVED)



# ST. CROIX COUNTY LEVY HISTORY

FOR THE FOLLOWING YEARS' OPERATIONS



Problem: Shared Revenue frozen since 1995

Recommendation:

- Create an expenditure restraint program for counties
- Rather than “spend more, get more” as the aidable aids formula does, create a “save more, get more” environment
- increase the base by 3%

Problem: State Court Funding frozen since 1995

Recommendation:

- Live up to the promise of the State assumption of court operations;
- Or, allow counties to keep 100% of State fees, fines and forfeitures; and, further support C.C.A.P. enhancements to create greater efficiency in court operations.



Problem: Increased State administration fee for sales tax collection

Recommendation:

- Counties are charged 1.5% fee for collection, the actual cost for the State to collect the tax is 1.3%;
- Therefore, lower the fee to collect for counties to 1.3%, NOT raise it to 1.75%.

Problem: Tobacco money is being used to balance the State Budget

Recommendation:

- Share these proceeds with counties who have been, and are, the front line that deals with people who have smoking related illnesses.
- The State, in Wisconsin's settlement with tobacco interests, waived counties' right to sue for our damages. The State did this without the counties' consent.

Problem: The Governor's Budget provides for Income Tax Relief when local governments need Property Tax Relief. People may bleed slowly with the income tax, but they hemorrhage when they get their property tax bill.

Recommendation:

- Place "Q.E.O" limitations on the wage and fringe benefits of local government employees
- Send additional State aid to local governments which categorically must be used for property tax relief.

## **WHERE THE PARTNERSHIP IS BREAKING DOWN:**

WHEN counties were either mandated or consented to provide programs for the State, counties knew the scope of the program and the level of State funding to provide it.

TODAY, WHEN we still must provide services, the funding to provide them from our partner ("The STATE") is frozen or decreased.

PLEASE TAKE THIS ISSUE SERIOUSLY !

- Either provide countries with a level of funding equal to the amount provided at the inception of the program, including adjustments for inflation and program use;

OR,

- Release countries from the mandates that dictate what must be provided, and how we must provide it.

SAVE THE STATE/COUNTY PARTNERSHIP,

IT IS IN YOUR HANDS!