



City of Fond du Lac

First on the Lake

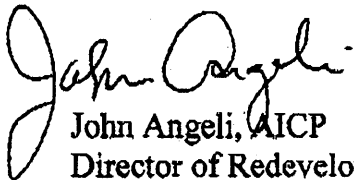
March 28, 2000

Honorable Robert Wirch, Chair
Committee on Economic Development
Housing & Government Operations
Room 310 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Wirch:

I am contacting you in regard to Senate Bill 437 which is designed to extend the life of the existing 20 Community Development Zones and future zones. As the Fond du Lac Community Development Zone Coordinator since its inception locally, I can certainly state that CDZ program has evolved into a valuable economic development tool. It has helped spur the largest expansion of the City's tax and job base in the City's history. While much progress has been made, I encourage you to pass Senate Bill 437, which will enable Fond du Lac and other program participants the opportunity to continue opening the job market to target group and other workers.

Sincerely,



John Angeli, AICP
Director of Redevelopment

JA:dw

deb/assemblysmallbusinesscommittee.032800



City of
BELOIT, Wisconsin

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Equal Opportunity Employer

March 27, 2000

State Senator Robert Wirch, Chair
Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations
Room 310 South, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Ref: AB 841/SB 437, Jointly sponsored legislation to extend the effective lives of the Community Development Zones Program in the State of Wisconsin.

Sen. Wirch,

In a follow-up to a legislative effort that was recently sponsored by State Senator Burke and State Representative Hutchison, I am requesting your full support of AB 841/SB 437 which would extend the existing lives of the Community Development Zone programs from their current limit of 12 years to 20 years with a five-year potential extension. This legislation is absolutely mandatory for Wisconsin to remain competitive with our neighboring states. As this matter is being debated in our state Capitol, a similar measure to extend the life of Enterprise Zone Program in Illinois is also being debated, except in the Illinois version would provide for enterprise zones to be in existence for 30 years. If this comes to pass, Wisconsin will truly be at a great disadvantage to our neighboring state to the south.

The Community Development Zone in Beloit is scheduled to "sunset" in less than two years without this extension. And we in Beloit are competing with an Illinois Enterprise Zone that extends to within two blocks of our City Hall, since Beloit sits right on the border of Illinois. I respectfully request your office's full support of this legislation as necessary to implementing the economic development plan for the City of Beloit. With the recent closing of the Beloit Corporation, and its dislocation of over 1300 employees, it will be absolutely necessary for the City of Beloit to have the full benefits of our Community Development Zone in order to reutilize the 38 acre former campus of Beloit Corporation and help put those dislocated workers back to gainful employment.

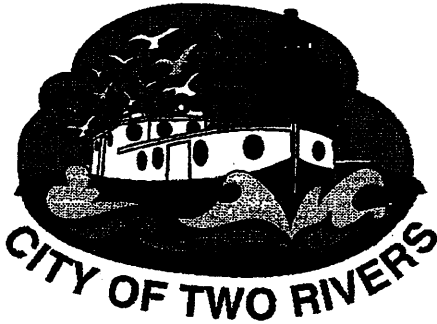
I ask that you and your committee members work quickly to adopt this legislation and send it on to the Governor's desk for his ratification as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Skurla
Economic Development Director

cc: Senator Judy Robson
Representative Dan Schooff
Jane Wood, City Manager
Beloit City Council Members
Bill Wheeler, Department of Commerce

Council Manager Government Since 1924



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March 27, 2000

Senator Robert Wirch, Chair
Committee on Economic Development,
Housing and Governmental Operations
Room 310 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Wirch:

This letter is in support of the *Senate Bill 437*.

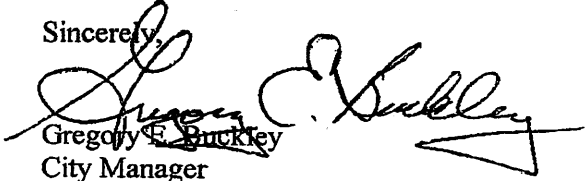
Two Rivers has been a Community Development Zone since 1995. During that period of time the City has 18 certified businesses which in aggregate, been allocated about \$1.2 Million in State Tax Credits. The businesses in turn have invested or will invest at least \$10 million dollars into Two Rivers, providing at least 300 jobs for the families of Two Rivers. These businesses and the others around the State have earned these tax credits by investing in people, plant and equipment. We believe in the Development Zone because it provides another tool to provide for business which says we care. We hope you care enough to vote for SB 437.

The City agrees with a statutory change extending the life of the existing 20 Community Development Zones and any future zones to twenty years with one five year renewal if the zone continues to meet certain distress criteria.

The City of Two Rivers urges your committee to approve AB841.

If you should have any questions you may contact me at 920/793-5532, or call Dan Pawlitzke, our Economic Development Supervisor at 920/793-5565.

Sincerely,


Gregory E. Buckley
City Manager