Vote Record

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations

Moved by:	21.00		Seconded	· -		
AB:	 SB:			ouse Rule: _		
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(Street Address or Route Number) (NAME)

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Registering Against:

but not speaking:

only; Neither for nor against: Speaking for information

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1/21/00	SJR 24	SUBJECT WINGOW	MSC	Michael Theo	4901 Forest Run	(Street Address or Route Number)	Madrison, W.	Code)		in Favor:	Against:	ring in Favor: but not speaking:	Against:	but not speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:
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Registering Against:

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South

P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882



To:

Members, Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations

From:

Senator Robert Wirch, Chairman

Date:

January 24, 2000

Re:

Paper Ballot - Senate Joint Resolution 24

IMPORTANT: PLEASE RETURN YOUR BALLOT OR PHONE IN YOUR VOTE NO LATER THAN NOON TODAY!!

Moved by Senator Wirch, that Senate Joint Resolution 24 be recommended for adoption.

Aye

No

Signature

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PAGE 81



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Members, Committee on Economic Development. Housing and Government Operations

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Senator Robert Wirch, Chairman

Dets:

January 24, 2000

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From:	Senator Robert Wirch, Chairman					
Date:	January 24, 2000					
Re:	Paper Ballot – Senate Joint Resolution 24					
IMPORTANT: PLEASE RETURN YOUR BALLOT OR PHONE IN YOUR VOTE NO LATER THAN NOON TODAY!! Moved by Senator Wirch, that Senate Joint Resolution 24 be recommended for adoption.						
Aye _	No					

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Members, Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations

From:

Senator Robert Wirch, Chairman

Date:

January 24, 2000

Re:

Paper Ballot - Senate Joint Resolution 24

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Aye ____

No _____

Signature



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Aye______No_____



Wisconsin Manufacturers'
Association · 1911
Wisconsin Council
of Safety · 1923
Wisconsin State Chamber
of Commerce · 1929

James S. Haney President

James A. Buchen
Vice President
Government Relations

James R. Morgan
Vice President
Education and Programs

Michael R. Shoys Vice President WMC Service Corp. TO:

Senate Economic Development, Housing, and

Government Operations Committee

FROM:

James A. Buchen

Vice President, Government Relations

DATE:

January 21, 2000

RE:

SJR 24 Constitutional Amendment

Regarding Uniformity Clause

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce is opposed to Senate Joint Resolution 24, which would amend the Wisconsin

Constitution's uniformity clause and allow for discriminatory property taxation. While the intended purpose of this constitutional amendment is to provide property tax relief, the actual impact is likely to increase taxes in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, Wisconsin is already one of the highest taxing states in the nation. According to the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, we currently rank third in the United States in overall taxation, sixth in income taxation, seventh in property taxation, and fifteenth in corporate income taxation.

The primary reason that Wisconsin is a high taxing state is spending growth at the local government and school district level, combined with attempts by the state to relieve the property tax burden by increasing local aids. As a result, 61% of all state spending involves aids to local governments and school districts. Despite a dramatic increase in state aid, in the name of property tax relief, we still have the seventh highest property taxes in the nation.

A recent study by the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance found that only \$.40 of every dollar spent on property tax relief actually goes to reduce taxes. The remaining \$.60 of every dollar is consumed in increased spending. As a result, past attempts to relieve property taxes by increasing aids and credits have only served to drive up the overall tax rate in Wisconsin.

With that by way of background, we oppose SJR 24 for the following reasons:

Will lead to higher taxes in Wisconsin.

History has shown that the only way to control property taxes is to limit local government and school district spending. Additional aids and credits, as contemplated by SJR 24, will only lead to increased spending and taxes.

Will lead to special interest property tax relief.

SJR 24 would allow the legislature to discriminate in the distribution of property tax relief on the basis of property value,

501 East Washington Avenue Madison, WI 53703-2944 P.O. Box 352 Madison, WI 53701-0352 Phone: (608) 258-3400 Fax: (608) 258-3413 www.wmc.org Page 2 Memo from James A. Buchen Regarding SJR 24 January 21, 2000

personal income, property location, type of property, etc. As a result, while some property taxpayers may see relief, others will see substantially higher taxes. The constitution currently guarantees every property taxpayer the right to share uniformly in property tax relief, and that is the way it should remain.

Voters see potential for mischief.

An almost identical constitutional amendment was overwhelmingly rejected by the voters in 1989 and 1992. The potential for such a constitutional amendment to allow mischief in the delivery of special interest property tax relief is well understood by Wisconsin taxpayers.

When Wisconsin was established in 1848, our political leaders understood that discriminatory property taxation and property tax relief was inherently unfair and inappropriate. We have benefited from their wisdom and foresight for more than 150 years. SJR 24 would eliminate this important taxpayer protection, and further undermine public confidence in our tax system and government in general. We urge you to reject SJR 24.