

To Members of the Wisconsin State Senate

My name is Richard Best. I am the Executive Director of the West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board and Workforce Resource, Inc., the entity that provides services and administration for that Board. We administer the Workforce Investment Act in the nine counties of West Central Wisconsin and assist with the operation of the Job Centers we have formed with partner agencies in each of those counties. We are the only agency that provides staff in each of those nine area Job Centers.

We are a system that gets little notoriety or recognition, but we touch hundreds, even thousands of lives each year as people either look to enter the workforce or improve their lot in life through new and better jobs. We work with economically disadvantaged youth, many with disabilities, who are unable to get their first jobs without assistance, even in a high demand labor market. We work with area employers to recruit new employees, upgrade the skills of their workers and educate individuals about employer expectations in the workplace. When companies make cuts in their workforce, we are the first on the scene to aid workers in moving into new employment, determining new career directions and/or getting the training they need to move into that new job.

Our organization, and others elsewhere in the state, have had to piece together funding from a multitude of sources to keep basic services available in our area communities including formula funding from the Workforce Investment Act for adults, dislocated workers and disadvantaged youth; contracts for W2 programs from various counties; Workforce Attachment and Advancement funds; TANF Youth Apprenticeship monies; Welfare-to-Work, Community Reinvestment and a variety of other sources. All with a similar intent – to better prepare different population groups for employment, match people to jobs or assist individuals in retaining employment – a mission that some forty of us in this region have dedicated our professional lives and our hearts to.

Despite apparent similarities, each of these sources carries with it a complex and often arcane set of rules, regulations and standards which confuse and confound even the best of those who must utilize every available resource in order to continue to provide services.

Virtually every one of the funding sources listed above is under some form of attack at either the state or federal level, whether it be to address budget shortfalls elsewhere, or to deal with a federal tax-cut looming in the future. The current funding picture for our region would indicate that nearly one-third or more of staff who perform these valuable services may have to be let go without an infusion of funds. These are people with years of training and experience in helping others find their career paths. Experience that will be lost when it may be needed most.

Just a few short months ago we were lamenting the status of Wisconsin's workforce now and for years into the future, based on solid demographic trend analysis coupled with conservative economic growth projections. Even though we are currently experiencing an economic downturn, primarily in the manufacturing sector, worker shortages loom before us for the foreseeable future. Many employers are still clamoring for services to help them find, prepare and retain employees – even while others seek assistance to deal with worker dislocation. Young people need guidance in preparing for the work place of the future, more than ever.

Who will be there to help address these needs if we decimate the experience base of the workforce development system? These are the people that bridge the gaps between education and the economy; who help students and teachers understand what it takes to be employed in today's workplace; who help employers find the workers they need; who advocate for employment opportunity for the less fortunate. Who do the workforce development professionals turn to when their jobs are threatened – as they are right now?

I have been professionally involved in workforce development for over thirty years. I have seen the ups and downs in the system and for nearly the last twenty of those years, it has been down – both in funding for the system and in economic trends – until this past one to two years. The importance of our work has finally seemed to have caught the attention of decision-makers and business leaders. We filled three vacant positions with business oriented professionals to help us better determine business needs while trying not to lose touch with our job seeker constituency.

We have had more business-based activity in the past year because we found a huge pent-up demand for assistance. Concerns for business viability without paying more attention to workforce issues and limited understanding of what to do about these issues. Issues that we have a wealth of experience and understanding in. Now we are faced with the prospect of losing ground on both fronts – just when we achieved a degree of the acceptance and value that we have long sought.

I don't have any simple solution for you today. I know much of the budgetary impact that we are about to feel is due to your seeking to remedy a great shortfall in a valuable childcare program which I understand has a \$95 million problem. But in the process of trying to solve it, many other things appear to be being cast aside – Youth apprenticeships, community reinvestment funds, W2 funds, Worker Attachment and Advancement funds. All of these resources have been used to help sustain the workforce development system, and while they may not be as visible an immediate need, their sacrifice will bring about a debt that will be difficult to repay because capacity and capability once lost, is not easily regained.

Many of the people effected by these pending layoffs have gone year after year performing admirably with substandard pay. They often go without annual pay increases. Last year was the first year in three years that they were given pay adjustments because we saw some new funding flexibility for the first time in years. Now that is being taken away and basic job security is hanging in the balance.

I don't want you to not solve the childcare problem. I wish you could find other ways that did not have such drastic impact on other necessary services or find ways to keep those services whole and mitigate these losses. Not long ago Wisconsin lead the nation in Job Centers, workforce development, welfare reform and Youth Apprenticeships. We now see the basic infrastructure needed to sustain such efforts being eroded as our neighbors and other areas of the country pass us by.

Workforce development is not a partisan issue. It has natural constituencies in both the labor/job seeker and business communities. It is a place were what benefits one will undoubtedly benefit the other. More efficiently filled job openings, higher skills, greater job retention, higher productivity and better paying jobs help workers, businesses and communities. The lack of an effective employment intermediary system will significantly impede progress in each of these areas.

I ask you to give this system greater consideration in your deliberations and not just dismiss it as a footnote in the great budget debate as the place where you came to get money to remedy one problem while not thinking about the problems you may have created in doing so – or of the unrealized potential that was sacrificed in the name of fiscal austerity.

I would ask you to consider the following:

- To restore Workforce Advancement and Attachment funding that is being proposed to be cut in half
- To restore the TANF Youth Apprenticeship funding
- To weigh carefully reductions in W2 and Community Reinvestment Funding, as these are funds which have helped sustain the workforce development system
- To direct discretionary Workforce Investment Act funds to local areas to the extent feasible to get those funds closest to the people and allow funding flexibility at the local level
- To grant the greatest degree of local control and flexibility allowed in federal law to local Workforce Development Boards and reduce needless and duplicative administrative burdens

Court Interpreter Funding

Director of State Courts

June 11, 2001

In response to rapidly increasing demand for interpreter services in courtrooms across the state, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has proposed major changes in the way judges appoint and supervise court interpreters. The court's proposed changes would:

- provide that interpreters be appointed when needed for all types of cases, civil and criminal, and for all parties, victims, and witnesses whether indigent or not, to assure the efficiency and integrity of the courts and honor a basic right to court access.
- create an interpreter training program covering court terminology and procedure, ethics, and interpreting skills; offer court certification tests in the most-needed languages; create a statewide roster of court interpreters and their qualifications; and provide judicial education in how to appoint and work with interpreters.
- increase county reimbursement for interpreter services from \$35 per half day to \$30 per hour for uncertified and \$40 per hour for court-certified interpreters, to defray the rapidly rising costs of demographic changes and come close to the rate that counties must pay to find qualified interpreters.

The Supreme Court asked the Governor to include these statutory changes in the budget bill, along with \$2 million for funding for this biennium (\$200,000 for an interpreter coordinator to do training, testing, and ethical oversight, and \$1.8 million for increased reimbursement costs under the expanded statute). The Governor declined most of the changes and added annual reimbursement funding of only \$50,000.

The Supreme Court then submitted its request to the legislative Joint Finance Committee. There was strong support for the Court's proposal at hearings around the state. The Joint Finance Committee rejected the court's request for full funding, as well as a motion to begin the program with a delayed effective date. Joint Finance approved a motion to a) increase the reimbursement rate from \$35 per half day to \$20 per hour and add \$105,600 to the reimbursement fund; b) delete the definition of "qualified interpreter" to let judges continue to decide who's qualified and who's not; c) delete the language requiring Supreme Court oversight of court interpreters; and d) recommend that the Legislative Council study a potential definition for "qualified interpreter" and report its conclusions to the Legislature.

There are several problems with the amendment adopted by joint finance.

- it omits the heart of the court's proposal, the training and testing program. This program would raise the skill level of interpreters across the state and give the courts the ability to identify the best interpreter available. Monolingual judges are not qualified to determine which interpreters are accurate and which are not; targeted training programs and reliable proficiency testing are needed.

- it defers action on this critical program by referring the matter to the Legislative Council for more study. A court committee studied this issue for 18 months and issued a 60-page report. The court committee recommended substantially the same administrative structure, statutory structure, training programs, and certification tests used successfully in many other states. Responsibility for the qualifications and ethical oversight of court interpreters should rest with the courts.
- it doesn't have the intended effect of defraying rising county costs for court interpreters. Although joint finance added \$105,600 annually to the reimbursement fund, it also changed the rate of reimbursement from \$35 per half day to \$20 per hour, which is approximately half the market rate. This change will do the counties almost no good, because it will cause the counties to lose money on short hearings, and the majority of hearings are short.

Under a half-day statute, the county is reimbursed \$35 for any interpreted hearing four hours or less in length, so a 30-minute hearing results in a \$35 reimbursement. (This is not to be confused with what the county actually had to pay the interpreter; most interpreters charge at least a one-hour minimum, so the county would have paid an average \$40 for this hearing). But under an hourly statute reimbursement payments must be prorated, so a 30-minute hearing at a statutory rate of \$20 per hour would result in a \$10 reimbursement.

The court Office of Management Services applied the proposed change to actual reimbursement requests received to see what the effect of this change would be. It found that 60% of all interpreter billings are for one hour or less, and another 20% are for 1-2 hours. It concluded that all counties together would gain approximately \$7100 per year under this proposal. Half the counties would have actually lost money during the period studied.

Overall, the joint finance amendment does not improve the quality or availability of court interpreting services, nor does it offer the counties any significant financial assistance with this growing problem. The state's budget should recognize the critical role that interpreter services play in the courtroom and the need for equal access for all court users. Although this is a difficult budget year, the court's proposal is long overdue in light of the demographic changes taking place in our courts and in our state.

- Prepared by Marcia Vandercook (608-267-7335)

Some Thoughts About Public Funding For The Arts In Wisconsin
The Senate Budget Committee - Cumberland, WI
by LaMoine MacLaughlin (June 11, 2001)

I love the old song from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess -- you know the words: "I got plenty o' nuttin' an' nuttin's plenty for me" Unfortunately I believe that song reflects Wisconsin's policy relating to public funding for the arts during the past decade. According to the most recent information available from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Wisconsin (with a population of 5,250,000) spends \$2,687,300 in state tax dollars in support of the arts. This amounts to \$0.51/Wisconsin resident, ranking us 43rd out of the 50 states, and placing us dead last among our neighboring midwestern states: Iowa (\$0.66/resident), Illinois (\$1.81/resident), Michigan (\$2.20/resident), and Minnesota (\$2.74/resident). Minnesota has nearly the same population as Wisconsin, but spends over five times as much public funding in support of the arts. Minnesota also has a stronger private funding base for the arts than does Wisconsin, probably reflecting the impact public funding can have toward increasing private support. When Minnesotans speak of major cultural institutions, they can refer to the Minnesota Orchestra, with a budget four times that of the Milwaukee Symphony, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, with a budget nearly twice that of Milwaukee's. And these represent only the major musical institutions, not counting the Guthrie Theater, the Walker Art Center, and other large budget cultural institutions. Furthermore, Minnesota has a very well developed system for getting state public funding out into rural areas throughout the state of Minnesota. When the Minnesota legislature had a tax surplus, the arts received a generous reallocation of the funds. I do not want to imply that Minnesota is perfect in its support of the arts; I believe that we do a better job of grassroots arts development within local communities in Wisconsin. But the national average for state public funding of the arts is \$1.44/resident, or very nearly three times what we presently spend in Wisconsin. The citizens of Wisconsin deserve better than what we have received during the past decade.

I think part of the problem concerning the low level of public funding for the arts in Wiscon-

sin relates to our inability to communicate what the arts are really about. In our haste to latch on to something we feel everyone values, we continue to focus upon the arts as a product, as something which can be bought and sold, as something which can be watched, or observed, and listened to, or even used for other ends and purposes. Hence economic impact studies and all the literature about the arts raising student test scores. The arts may have an economic impact, but they are not about economic impact. The arts may raise student test scores, but they are not about raising student test scores. However important these concerns may be, they are a small part of the picture and miss the essential point of art as experience and as process, of art as action, of art as involvement. They miss the essential metaphysical nature and characteristics beyond the material aspects of the arts. Poet and essayist Wendell Berry has said, ". . . people exploit what they have merely concluded to be of value, but they defend what they love." Until we understand that the arts and the humanities are not utilitarian in nature, we will never communicate their real importance. Until we understand how they raise our spirits, providing us with a sense of mystery, of awe, and of beauty in direct contradiction to the material preoccupation of our times, we will continue to miss what we love about the arts. Until we understand and better appreciate what the arts do in our everyday lives, we will never understand nor be able to communicate that the intrinsic goodness and importance of the arts are reasons enough for increasing public funding support. In his Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, William Faulkner was specifically speaking of what a poet does, and I believe also of what the artist in general does, when he said, "It is his privilege to help man endure by lifting his heart, by reminding him of the courage and honor and hope and pride and compassion and pity and sacrifice which have been the glory of his past." The arts are the vehicles we use to pass on to our children and to their children what is best and highest among our traditions, our social customs, and our heritage. The arts at once reflect and form the values of our society and we know that, when our society fades into the future, what will remain as evidence to remind our children of what we considered important and significant and worth living for will be our cultural achievements: our art, our dance, our music, and our poetry. What will future archeologists find while digging about in Wisconsin? A fishing

lure? A football? A beer can? We fund our priorities. Do we in Wisconsin prioritize and consider the arts of lesser importance than do the residents of our neighboring states? I don't think so. Local communities throughout Wisconsin are investing in arts infrastructure: building and remodeling. The community of Amery is wonderfully supportive of the Northern Lakes Center for the Arts. It is important to the residents of Amery that their children receive the high quality arts instruction available through the Northern Lakes School of the Arts. The arts are important in Amery and Amery is only one small Wisconsin community, in so many ways typical of other Wisconsin communities. The arts are important to residents throughout Wisconsin and should receive adequate public funding support from the State of Wisconsin. Any efforts seeking additional funding less than bringing us up to the national average (an additional \$4,872,700) will be insufficient and less than adequate. We would still rank behind everyone in the midwest except Iowa. We have much work to do. We need vision. We need to be persistent. We need to be creative.

The creation of a private endowment for the arts in Wisconsin is an important first step in increasing and the license plate is a first step in funding the endowment, but we need to insure that citizens will receive a tax credit as part of the method to fund it or the endowment concept will remain an empty possibility. We would also hope that arts organizations in the future could become exempt from charging and collecting sales tax, as they are in all other states in the midwest region, giving arts organizations a small but important addition to their local financial support. And finally, I would hope that the Wisconsin Arts Board's budget would not be cut the 5%/year from their operating budget as recommended over the next biennium. This represents, not government by compromise, but government by cop-out. Across the board state agency percentage cuts avoid the hard work of looking at each agency, its mission, and what its needs are to financially pursue that mission. During the past fifteen years, with budget cuts coupled with rising inflation, the Wisconsin Arts Board's budget has been stretched to a level making it impossible to adequately meet the needs of Wisconsin's citizens, especially those in rural areas. We need to insure that the Arts Board's budget at least remains at the level of this past biennium budget.

I do not want anyone to misinterpret that I believe without public funding, the arts will not happen in Wisconsin. The arts have always happened and will continue to happen throughout Wisconsin with or without public or private funding. The arts are not about funding and have little to do with funding. The arts are about expression, communication and sharing. The arts are about the exaltation of the human spirit. Without public funding, Sue Morley will continue her amazingly original drawings from her home outside Gordon, Anthony Bukoski will continue to write his stories about his hometown, the Polish east-end of Superior, Frank Stone will continue to sell his stained-glass work throughout the world from his studio in Clayton, Juliana Schmidt will continue her lieder recitals from Menomonie, Harold Henson will continue to take his paintings into local public schools around River Falls to talk about how the choices young people make affect their lives, and the Northern Lakes Theater Guild will continue its performances of classical and original drama in Amery. The arts will happen because the artist has no choice but to make them happen. However, out of justice, if nothing else, we as a society have a responsibility toward the arts and toward the artist. Poet Ezra Pound has called artists "the antennae of the race." They see and hear things before the rest of the public does, and therefore the artist is of crucial and critical importance in a functioning democracy. Artists call our attention to things we need to be aware of. If Robert Putnam is correct in *Bowling Alone*, and the disengagement of Americans is leaving democracy hanging by a thread, if voting has become the only way Americans are involved in the democratic process, then we increasingly need the creative vision supplied by the arts and the artist to restore vitality to our system of democracy. The arts invite involvement and call for engagement. As Wisconsin author Robert Gard has stated so well, "Let art begin at home, and let it spread through the children and their parents, and through the schools and the institutions and through government Let us accept the goodness of art where we are now, and expand its worth in the places where people live." Public funding can provide the leadership and support for this kind of vision. We need more of it in Wisconsin.

(LaMoine MacLaughlin is co-founder, Executive Director and instructor at the Northern Lakes School of the Arts, located in Amery, Wisconsin. For the past eleven years he has also been the Director of the Northern Lakes Center for the Arts, a performance center included in the book, The 100 Best Small Arts Towns in America, and described by a former Executive Director of the Wisconsin Arts Board as " . . . One of Wisconsin's most vibrant arts organizations." An active musician, Mr. MacLaughlin has performed for the past twenty years as a soloist, an ensemble member, and Director of the Northern Lakes Chamber Orchestra. Mr. MacLaughlin is very active in larger arts circles: he has been national co-chair of the rural and small community interest area of Americans for the Arts, he served as President of the Wisconsin Assembly of Local Arts Agencies, where he has been a consultant and an arts advocate, and he is a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts. In 1996, he and his wife, Mary Ellen, received the Wisconsin Governor's Award in Support of the Arts, and in 1999, the Rural Genius Award from the Front Porch Institute.)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE 2001-2002 BIENNIAL BUDGET
June 12, 2001; Verona, Wisconsin

My name is Paul H. Kusuda, Madison. My wife and I have lived in Dane County and voted in every federal, state, and local election for the past 50 years. Since retiring more than ten years ago, we have been involved in various types of volunteer work.

I am a former Board member of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, and a former President of the Dane County SOS Senior Council. At present, I am a member of the Dane County Area Agency on Aging Board, CWAG Legislative Caucus, and the Elderly Services Network of Dane County; I am also active with other community agencies including the Dane County Ad Hoc Human Service Task Force.

I am aware, as are most in Wisconsin, that the Biennial Budget exceeds available GPR and that the Legislature faces many difficult decisions to serve equitably the people of Wisconsin. However, I ask that every effective effort be taken to make certain that Community Aids funds be kept above the year 2000 level with the increase being such as to exceed inflation or demographic factors that might be considered. People with minimal voice and minimal influence on legislators are among those who receive local services funded wholly or partially through Community Aids funds.

Counties provide for both mandated and non-mandated (such as prevention) services; state funds distributed to counties are woefully inadequate to meet local agency known needs. Dane County's concerns moved the County Executive to appoint an Ad Hoc Task Force to suggest ways to grapple with the difference between needs and resources. The dilemma to be faced may be to freeze or reduce funds for human service agencies or raise Dane County's property tax levy.

Knowing the crucial need for Community Aids funds increase, I ask that the amount for each year of the 2001-2003 Biennium be raised a minimum of five per cent per year.

Paul H. Kusuda; 200 Tompkins Dr.; Madison, Wisconsin 53716-3255

SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE 2001-2003 BIENNIAL BUDGET
June 12, 2001; Verona, Wisconsin

The job of determining where the state might obtain resources necessary to fund my request is primarily that of the Senate and the Assembly. However, if asked, I would support any or all of the following:

1. Increase the tax on all alcoholic beverages, including beer.
2. Increase the tax on all tobacco products, not just cigarettes.
3. Add a time-limited surtax (probably two years) to the state income tax to be applicable to individuals, corporations, and others.
4. Enact a wheel tax to be collected through State Department of Transportation records for GPR earmarked for the county in which the vehicle is registered.
5. Just for Wisconsin's 15 largest cities, enact a wheel tax to be collected through State Department of Transportation records for GPR earmarked for each of the 15 cities, the funds being allocated on the basis of distance of the location of the vehicle registrant's home. The distance could be established as within 25 or 50 miles of the center of the city. Such funds would not be for Community Aids funds but for municipal human service programs.

Paul H. Kusuda; 200 Tompkins Dr.; Madison, Wisconsin 53716-3255



TO: Members, Senate Committee on the 2001-03 Budget

FROM: Jim Hoegemeier, Executive Director

DATE: June 12, 2001

RE: Continued Support for the Division of International and Export Services

I recently learned that the Joint Committee on Finance approved a budget amendment motion that, if included in the final state budget package, would eliminate funding for the Division of International and Export Development within the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. **On behalf of the more than 150 (and growing) Wisconsin individuals, businesses and associations that comprise the goTRADE Wisconsin coalition, I ask that you restore and support continued funding for the Division.**

State funding for the Division of International and Export Development is an investment that reaps huge returns for Wisconsin. The Division, including Wisconsin's overseas trade offices, continues to be a valuable resource for any Wisconsin business, particularly small to medium-sized businesses, searching for expanded market opportunities. These expanded market opportunities lead to more jobs for Wisconsin residents. Continued investment in the Division is vital to Wisconsin's efforts to develop a more influential role in the global marketplace.

In my duties as executive director of goTRADE Wisconsin, I have had the opportunity to work with hundreds of businesses that are and/or have been the beneficiaries of the services provided by the Division. Wisconsin's overseas offices and representatives have been particularly helpful to many Wisconsin businesses seeking to develop an export base.

Again, I urge you to oppose any measures that would jeopardize the many benefits Wisconsin residents receive from the Division of International and Export Development.



THE BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE *goTRADE* INITIATIVE

WHAT IS THE BRT "*goTRADE*" INITIATIVE?

Achieving a fundamental and permanent change in public understanding and support of international trade – this is the vision articulated by the chief executive officers of The Business Roundtable (BRT) in launching the *goTRADE* program. In so doing, Roundtable executives made a long-term commitment to mount a high-impact trade education and advocacy initiative that currently extends to 167 priority districts and 332 total congressional districts and 25 states across the country.

WHY?

The choices our elected leaders make today on international trade rank among the very few decisions that will shape the American economic and social landscape decades from now. Forward-looking U.S. leadership on trade will create increased opportunity and higher standards of living for the next generation of Americans. A retreat on trade imperils the prosperity and quality of life available to Americans of all ages and walks of life. The *goTRADE* initiative provides the appropriate foundation for our elected representatives to learn how supporting pro-trade positions impacts their constituents.

WHERE?

Since early 1998, from a nucleus of 11 priority congressional districts in eight states, BRT *goTRADE* networks have expanded to include 167 priority districts and 332 total districts in 25 states across the United States as of March 31, 2001.

How?

BRT *goTRADE* state programs work to accomplish these objectives by uniting business, agricultural and other interested organizations and providing strategic direction and resources to maximize the impact of their pro-trade activities. Specific activities include:

- √ Producing state and district-level trade studies
- √ Assembling anecdotes highlighting local success stories and supporting BRT *goTRADE* legislative priorities
- √ Scheduling meetings with lawmakers
- √ Organizing conferences, forums, and other community events
- √ Developing educational mailings
- √ Conducting outreach to the media

ABOUT THE BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

The Business Roundtable (BRT) is an association of chief executive officers of leading corporations, with a combined workforce of more than 10 million employees in the United States. The chief executives are committed to advocating public policies that foster vigorous economic growth and a dynamic global economy.

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN **EXECUTIVES AND ADMINISTRATORS**

Memorandum

DATE: June 12, 2001

TO: Area Representatives and Senators, Members of Joint Committee on Finance, Press

FROM: Nancy Nusbaum, Brown County Executive
Toby Paltzer, Outagamie County Executive
John Keuler, Calumet County Administrator
Jane Van De Hey, Winnebago County Executive
Allen Buechel, Fond du Lac County Executive

RE: Joint Committee on Finance Action

Thank you for the opportunity to address the actions of the Joint Committee on Finance. Certainly you have had a difficult budget to deal with and we recognize your attempt to address very important issues in an equitable manner. However, we are in disagreement with several of the budget actions:

- ⇒ The Joint Committee on Finance maintained the \$40 million increase in ITP for counties but they reduced the nursing home rate increase from \$75 million to \$50 million and took all of the money in the Medicaid Trust Fund for budget balancing. We respectfully request that the \$108 million from this action be restored.
- ⇒ The Juvenile Correctional Institutions have increased their daily rates by 14% and neither the Governor nor the Joint Committee on Finance addressed the needs of the counties to pay the increased rates, which are paid by the property tax. We request that either the rates be reduced or Youth Aids be increased to accommodate the increase.
- ⇒ We are in need of the additional prosecutors offered by the Joint Committee on Finance, however, we cannot afford the funding mechanism for the positions. The cap on the revenues for counties from the fines and forfeitures limits our growth ability. Please oppose this funding provision and fund the district attorney positions in a more responsible manner.
- ⇒ Neither the Governor nor the Joint Committee on Finance offered an increase in the Circuit Court Support Grant. It has been recommended to the State that they completely fund the state court system. With no increase in this grant, the county property tax pays for the state system. We ask you to consider some additional funding and a commitment to working for full funding in the future.

There are numerous other issues that negatively affect us in Northeastern Wisconsin but we continue to hope that we can work together to address those that are affecting us all, while we continue to provide the state required services. In light of the Kettl Commission recommendations, we look forward to the formation of a true state/local partnership, and offer our services to reach that conclusion.



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TO: Members, Senate Committee on the 2001-03 Budget

FROM: James E. Hough, Executive Director
Amy L. Boyer, Legislative Director

DATE: June 11, 2001

RE: **SUPPORT FOR THE DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL AND EXPORT SERVICES**

Recently, the Joint Committee on Finance voted to eliminate the Department of Commerce's Division of International and Export Services (International Division) as part of a final, omnibus motion in developing a balanced budget package.

WEDA strongly opposes the elimination of the International Division and respectfully urges that members of the Senate and Assembly restore the funding to continue this important facet of economic development.

The world has been and continues to shrink as it relates to commerce and economic development. Ignoring worldwide markets in today's society constitutes a formula for failure. International trade is an important part of Wisconsin's economy. Annual sales to foreign countries amount to \$10.5 billion, almost 10% of Wisconsin's total manufacturing production. These sales bring new dollars into Wisconsin to help our economy grow.

The International Division performs valuable services to Wisconsin businesses – especially small and medium size companies. (Large corporations generally have adequate in-house resources and global experience.) Most of the International Division's "clients" would not have the resources to research and identify the opportunities, regulatory hurdles, and avenues of distribution were it not for these services. As a measure of success, over 75% of the businesses helped by the Division have reported that their sales have or will increase as a result of the partnership with the International Division.

The state of Wisconsin and its businesses face major competition for the location, retention and growth of good, solid small and medium-sized businesses. Loss of the Division would remove a strong economic development tool that makes our state attractive to businesses with forward-thinking global views.

[WEDA is a statewide association of approximately 500 economic development professionals.]

PEOPLE • JOBS • PROFITS

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PATRICIA BLANKENBURG



June 12, 2001

◆ Good morning, members of the Senate Budget Committee. My name is Pat Blankenburg. I serve on several boards of directors of statewide arts organizations; however, today I am appearing on my own behalf, *as well as the WI Assembly of Local Arts.*

◆ Many months ago, an effort began by key leaders of the state's arts organizations, several legislators and former legislators, to develop a proposal for increasing Wisconsin's state support for the arts. The group worked with several caveats: that any proposal to the Legislature would not include a request for increased general purpose revenue; that any proposal would not be couched in the familiar lament about our state's ranking in per capita spending for the arts. Good progress was made, and a reasonable, responsible arts proposal emerged.

The resulting arts proposal, as you know, was introduced in the Senate. Elements of the two bills were recently adopted by the Joint Committee on Finance for inclusion in that Committee's approved budget bill.

I join others in applauding the members of Joint Finance for approving the creation of an arts endowment to be funded by individual and corporate contributions, and for creating a special arts license plate to help fund the endowment. An essential part of the proposal, however, was not included by Joint Finance in the budget bill language, and I respectfully request that the Senate now consider the importance of including the tax credit provision covering contributions to the endowment. Without the incentive of the tax credit provision, and relying only on the license plate revenue, the endowment simply will not reach its potential goal. Without the benefit of the tax credit, the arts endowment represents a hollow promise. I hope that the Senate will include the tax credit provision in your budget bill recommendation.

I want to comment briefly about the private support of the arts in this state. Wisconsin has a long tradition of philanthropy. And a recent report by the Wisconsin Assembly of Local Arts shows more than 50 communities where local art centers have been developed or are underway. While we think of the big projects in Milwaukee and Madison, there are others as impressive: in Wausau, in Chippewa Falls and in the small community of Hartford, to name a few. While

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many of these projects receive public funding assistance, many more do not and are built with private dollars from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Such private sector philanthropy is likely to be encouraged by the state's demonstration that it is a serious partner in making the arts a priority. The proposal that is before this Legislature this session represents an important step toward strengthening the concept of a public/private partnership in support of the arts.

The late Jerry Bartell, a leader in the arts community, years ago coined a phrase that was heard frequently on Wisconsin Public Radio and Television and still reverberates today: "The arts are for everyone. Support. Enjoy."

Thank you for convening the hearing today. If you have any questions, I will try to answer them.

HERMAN HOLTZMAN
8501 Old Sauk Road
Madison, WI 53562
608 662-9892

June 12, 2001

SENATE BUDGET
To: ~~Joint Committee on Finance~~

From: Herman Holtzman

I am here to strongly support SB 115, IMPARTIAL JUSTICE

I feel that I am not only representing myself, but many people that I talk to who are tired of the present system where money can influence justice.

You've heard, I'm sure, many reasons why we should have IMPARTIAL JUSTICE. Those who don't want full public funding for any kind of election will use the excuse that there is no money in the budget and we facing a huge deficit. It is up to you to provide the \$1,000,000 necessary to implement the IMPARTIAL JUSTICE bill. Here are some suggestions:

- ❖ Cut \$1,000,000 from the \$3,900,000 Senate and Assembly Caucus budget.
- ❖ Apply a sales tax on the luxury boxes in both Miller Park and Lambeau Field
- ❖ Apply a sales tax on campaign expenditures for radio and TV ads
- ❖ Apply a tax break for corporations that contribute money to an IMPARTIAL JUSTICE fund that they would normally and secretly contribute to organizations sponsoring so called issue ads

I'm sure you all are smarter than I am in these matters and could find a way to provide the \$1,000,000 if you really care for IMPARTIAL JUSTICE. Listen to the people instead of the big money contributors.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

- ◆ Commerce provided \$43.35 million in loans and grants to 836 business projects-- a 50-percent increase over 2000--that created 6,349 jobs, retained 5,562 jobs, and leveraged \$342.2 million in private funds. Of these awards, 87 percent were made to small businesses (fewer than 100 employees).
- ◆ Commerce implemented the Business Employees Skills Training Program, providing more than \$400,000 in training grants to 110 micro-enterprises (25 or fewer employees).
- ◆ The state's Community Development Zones certified 25 new businesses for projects expected to create \$31.2 million in new private investment and 809 jobs.
- ◆ In addition, 11 Enterprise Development Zones were certified for projects expected to represent \$230.6 million in new private investment, create 2,099 jobs, and retain 3,747 jobs.
- ◆ Commerce approved 31 Industrial Revenue Bond projects for municipalities, allocating \$88.5 million in Industrial Revenue Bond Volume Cap, leveraging \$181.0 million in private investment, creating 1,373 jobs, and retaining 3,030 jobs.
- ◆ The Main Street Program provides technical assistance for downtown revitalization to 33 designated communities across the state. The communities attracted total public and private investment of \$92.0 million, 700 new jobs, and 190 new businesses to their downtowns.
- ◆ The International Division made 1,376 direct contacts with Wisconsin business seeking to expand or begin exporting ventures. Staff assisted these companies in such areas as trade shows participation, agent/distributor search, on-site export consulting, trade mission participation, and catalog show representation.
- ◆ To ensure public health and safety, Commerce:
 - ◆ Completed 24,383 building and building component plan reviews:
 - ◆ Completed 33,113 building inspections
 - ◆ Credentialed 53,370 construction professionals.
 - ◆ Issued 70,909 construction and operating permits.
 - ◆ Closed 1,682 environmental remediation sites.
 - ◆ Completed 535 petroleum tank plan reviews.