

**Committee Name:**  
**Senate Committee – Economic Development,  
Job Creation and Housing  
(SC–EDJCH)**

**Appointments**

03hr\_SC–EDJCH\_Appt\_pt00

**Committee Hearings**

03hr\_SC–EDJCH\_CH\_pt00

**Committee Reports**

03hr\_SC–EDJCH\_CR\_pt00

**Clearinghouse Rules**

03hr\_SC–EDJCH\_CRule\_03–

**Executive Sessions**

03hr\_SC–EDJCH\_ES\_pt00

**Hearing Records**

03hr\_ab0000

03hr\_sb0000

**Misc.**

03hr\_SC–EDJCH\_\_Misc\_\_pt07

**Record of Committee Proceedings**

03hr\_SC–EDJCH\_RCP\_pt00

2003  
?

### Vote Record

## Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing

Date: 2/19

Moved by: Mou

Seconded by: Br v

AB \_\_\_\_\_

SB \_\_\_\_\_

Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_

AJR \_\_\_\_\_

SJR \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Riley

AR \_\_\_\_\_

SR \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for:

- Passage       Adoption       Confirmation       Concurrence       Indefinite Postponement
- Introduction       Rejection       Tabling       Nonconcurrence

Committee Member

Senator Cathy Stepp

Senator Carol Roessler

Senator Ronald Brown

Senator Gwendolynne Moore

Senator Mark Meyer *Grant Huber says aye*

<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: \_\_\_\_\_

2003  
?

### Vote Record

## Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing

Date: 2/19

Moved by: Ross

Seconded by: Moore

AB \_\_\_\_\_

SB \_\_\_\_\_

Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_

AJR \_\_\_\_\_

SJR \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Farrar

AR \_\_\_\_\_

SR \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for:

- Passage       Adoption       Confirmation       Concurrence       Indefinite Postponement
- Introduction       Rejection       Tabling       Nonconcurrence

#### Committee Member

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Cathy Stepp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Carol Roessler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Ronald Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Gwendolynne Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Mark Meyer <i>Grant Huber says aye</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote Record

Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing

Date: 6/13/03

Moved by: Cathy Seconded by: Roess

AB \_\_\_\_\_ SB \_\_\_\_\_ Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_  
AJR \_\_\_\_\_ SJR \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment Sec. Nettles  
AR \_\_\_\_\_ SR \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

- Be recommended for:
- Passage
  - Adoption
  - Confirmation
  - Concurrence
  - Indefinite Postponement
  - Introduction
  - Rejection
  - Tabling
  - Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Cathy Stepp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Carol Roessler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ronald Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Gwendolynne Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Jeffrey Plale <i>pending</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: \_\_\_\_\_

06-13-03 ?

### Vote Record

## Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

AB \_\_\_\_\_ SB \_\_\_\_\_ Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR \_\_\_\_\_ SJR \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment \_\_\_\_\_  
 AR \_\_\_\_\_ SR \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt back \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt Gov \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

*Moore* *Roes* *sub* *introduce*  
*by man*  
*consent*

Be recommended for:

- Passage       Adoption       Confirmation       Concurrence       Indefinite Postponement
- Introduction       Rejection       Tabling       Nonconcurrency

*Moore/Roes* *adoption*  
*As amended*

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Senator Cathy Stepp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Carol Roessler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ronald Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Gwendolynne Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Jeffrey Plale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: \_\_\_\_\_

*Passage ->* *Moved 2nd*  
*Brown/Roes*  
 3 - 1  
*Moore*

# Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

## Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing

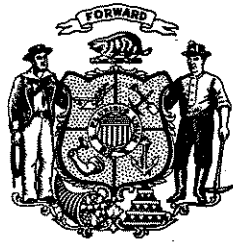
Date: 6/13/03 Meeting Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: 411 S.

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Senator Cathy Stepp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Carol Roessler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ronald Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Gwendolynne Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Jeffrey Plale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>polling/Paper Ballot</i>

Totals: \_\_\_\_\_

*END*

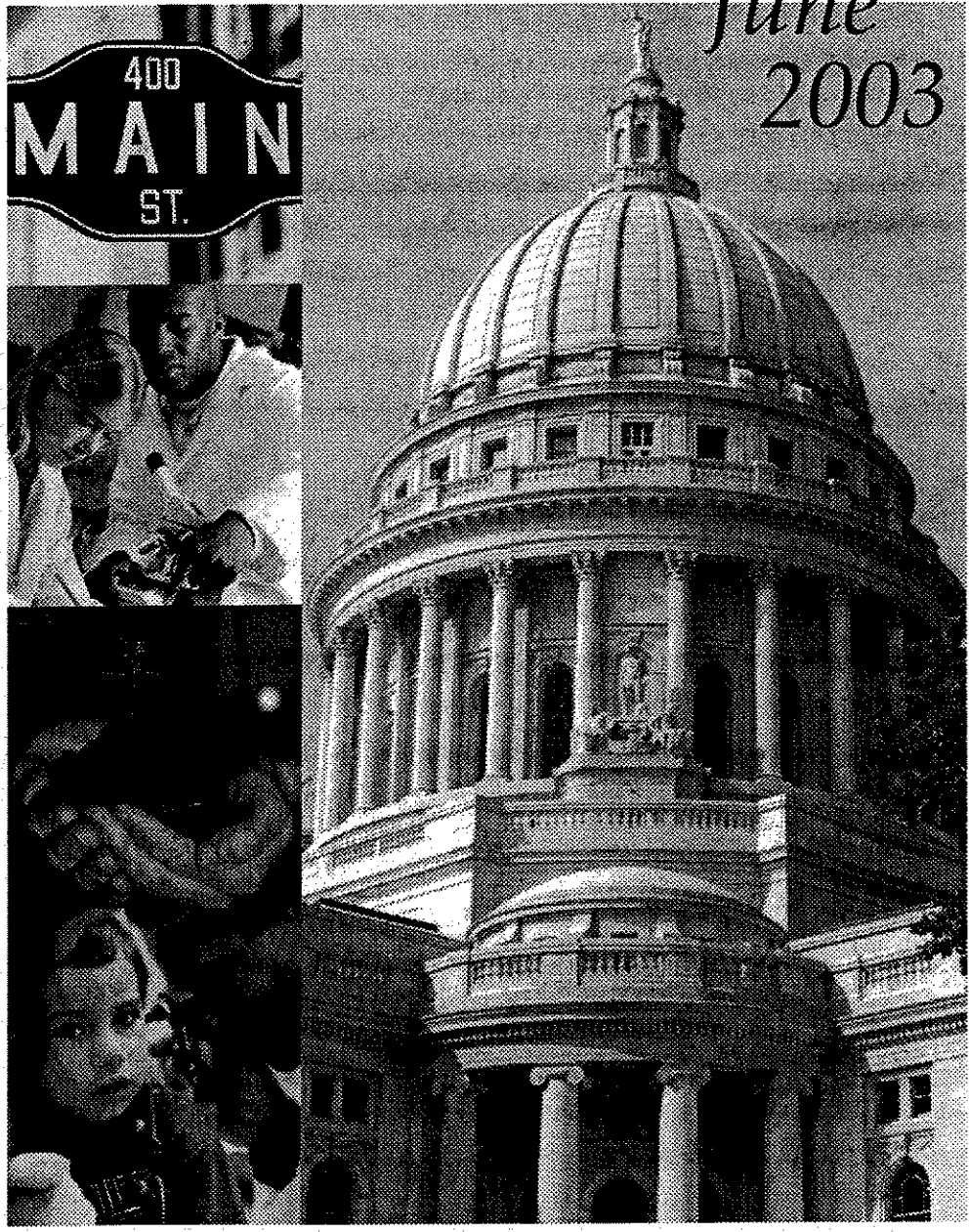


*END*

# WMC 2003 Economic Outlook Survey

*June  
2003*

*Better Jobs, Brighter Futures*



**WMC**  
REPRESENTING WISCONSIN BUSINESS



# WMC 2003 CEO Survey

The top business problem facing businesses is the economic slowdown at 45.5 percent, and 40.9 percent said reducing regulation is the "one thing government could do to help businesses." Leaders were split on the business climate, with 21.9 percent saying Wisconsin is somewhat pro-business and 43.8 percent said the state is somewhat to very anti-business, 34.4 percent said the state is neutral on business.

Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

	<u>June 2001</u>	<u>October 2001</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>June 2003</u>
<b>Total Number of Respondents</b>	42	593	30	33
<b>1. BUSINESS CATEGORY</b>				
Manufacturing	60.9%	56.2%	50.0%	51.5%
Non-Durable	19.5	17.3	10.0	12.1
Durable	26.8	33.0	20.0	30.3
No Answer	0	0	0	0
Services	34.1	33.2	50.0	39.4
Retail	2.4	3.4	3.3	3.0
Commercial	2.4	7.6	3.3	9.1
No Answer	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>2. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES THE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR FIRM?</b>				
Private, family or individually owned	42.9	67.1	46.7	45.5
Private, investor owned	7.1	12.2	3.3	9.1
Public, closely held	4.8	3.7	6.7	3.0
Public, widely held	38.1	10.3	33.3	36.4
Other	7.1	6.8	10.0	6.1
<b>3. TOTAL EMPLOYEES</b>				
1-25	2.4	23.9	3.3	0
26-50	2.4	16.0	6.7	3.0
51-100	9.5	18.0	10.0	6.1
101-200	2.4	13.3	3.3	3.0
200+	83.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
201-500	NA	12.1	3.3	21.2
501+	NA	16.5	73.3	66.7
No Answer	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>4. NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN NEXT 12 MONTHS</b>				
Increase	26.2	31.8	33.3	39.4
No Change	52.4	49.5	56.7	30.3
Decrease	21.4	18.8	10.0	30.3
No Answer	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>5. HOURLY WAGE INCREASES THIS YEAR</b> [due to the economic slowdown, this question was asked differently for the Oct/June 2002 survey]				
3% or less	47.6			
3.1 - 3.5 %	26.2			
3.6 - 4%	21.4			
4.1% +	4.8			
No Answer	0			
<b>5A. HOURLY WAGE INCREASES THIS YEAR</b> [following are answers for the October/June 2002 survey]				
0 to 2.0%		24.1	17.2	15.2
2.1 to 2.9%		22.5	31.0	27.3
3.0 to 3.5%		36.9	44.8	42.4
3.6 to 4.0%		12.0	3.4	9.1
4.1% or above		4.4	3.4	6.1

[More than one answer is permitted for questions 6-9.]

	<u>June 2001</u>	<u>October 2001</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>June 2003</u>
<b>6. TOP POLICY ISSUE FACING WISCONSIN</b>				
Taxes	71.9%	42.5%	60.0%	51.5%
Energy	15.2	5.8	6.7	0
Education	0	2.9	3.3	3.0
Regulation	0	5.6	6.7	9.1
Economic Slowdown	0	44.0	20.0	33.3
Labor Shortage	2.4	5.4	0	0
International Situation	NA	6.9	0	0
Security	NA	0.3	0	0
Misc. (Other)	10.5	0.8	19.9	9.0
No Answer	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>7. TOP BUSINESS CONCERN FACING YOUR COMPANY</b>				
Taxes	4.8	13.4	13.3	9.1
Energy	7.1	2.4	0	0
Labor Shortage	9.5	7.0	6.7	0
Regulation	4.8	8.3	16.7	21.2
Economic Slowdown	38.0	61.0	56.7	45.5
Competition	16.7	9.5	3.3	15.2
International Situation	N/A	2.5	10.0	3.0
Security	N/A	0.3	0	0
Misc. (Other)	4.8	2.2	3.3	6.0
No Answer	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>8. ONE THING THAT STATE GOVERNMENT COULD DO TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS</b>				
Reduce Taxes	N/A	46.9	56.0	30.9
Reduce Regulation	N/A	10.7	16.0	40.9
Reduce Spending	N/A	6.1	8.0	3.4
Affordable Health Care	N/A	5.4	4.0	3.4
Education	N/A	1.7	0	3.4
<b>9. ONE THING THAT STATE GOVERNMENT COULD DO TO IMPROVE WISCONSIN'S BUSINESS CLIMATE</b>				
Reduce Taxes	N/A	60.0	61.5	57.9
Reduce Regulation	N/A	7.8	3.8	12.8
Reduce Spending	N/A	6.5	11.5	6.5
Bring business to Wisconsin	N/A	1.3	3.8	9.6
Affordable Health Care	N/A	0.9	0	3.2
Miscellaneous	N/A	N/A	30.5	19.2
<b>10. PERCENT OF PAYROLL SPENT ON EMPLOYEE TRAINING</b>				
3.0% or below	70.0	66.5	48.3	57.6
3.1 % to 4.0 %	12.5	18.4	27.6	30.3
4.1% to 5.0 %	5.0	9.3	10.3	6.1
5.1% or above	12.5	5.8	13.8	6.1
No Answer	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>11. HOW MUCH HAVE YOUR PER-EMPLOYEE HEALTH-COVERAGE COSTS INCREASED OVER THE PAST YEAR?</b>				
0%	0	1.9	0	0
1-10%	21.4	11.1	7.1	3.0
11-20%	52.4	36.1	64.3	69.7
21-30%	14.3	31.0	21.4	18.2
31-40%	2.4	10.4	7.1	9.1
41-50%	9.5	3.7	0	0
More than 50%	0	4.4	0	0
N/A; Do not offer health care coverage	0	1.4	0	0

[More than one answer is permitted for question 12.]

June 2001

October 2001

June 2002

June 2003

**12. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DEAL WITH INCREASE HEALTH CARE COSTS?**

Increase Employee Contribution	N/A	64.5%	89.7%	78.8%
Decrease Benefits	N/A	28.1	17.2	36.4
Increase Benefits	N/A	3.8	3.4	0
Drop Coverage	N/A	1.7	0	3.0
Other	N/A	16.5	20.4	24.0

**13. WHAT IS THE BUSINESS CLIMATE GOING TO BE LIKE IN YOUR COMPANY IN THE NEXT 6 TO 12 MONTHS?**

Good Growth	9.5	4.6	10.7	6.1
Moderate Growth	33.3	35.0	53.6	54.5
Remain Flat	50.0	44.0	32.1	36.4
Decline	7.1	16.4	3.6	3.0
No Answer	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

**14. WHAT IS THE BUSINESS CLIMATE GOING TO BE LIKE IN WISCONSIN OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS?**

Good Growth	N/A	0.2	3.4	0
Moderate Growth	N/A	22.3	37.9	30.3
Remain Flat	N/A	55.4	51.7	63.6
Decline	N/A	22.1	6.9	6.1

**15. WHAT IS THE U.S. ECONOMY PERFORMANCE GOING TO BE OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS?**

Good Growth	N/A	0.3	3.4	3.1
Moderate Growth	N/A	26.6	75.9	65.6
Remain Flat	N/A	47.8	20.7	31.3
Decline	N/A	25.3	0	0

**16. WHAT PORTION OF YOUR SALES ARE EXPORTS?**

[due to the economic slowdown, this question was asked differently for the October/June 2002 survey]

None	40.0
1-25%	52.5
25-50%	7.5
50%+	0

**16A. WHAT PORTION OF YOUR SALES ARE EXPORTS?** [following are answers for the October/June 2002 survey]

None	52.1	50.0	62.5
1-25%	42.5	39.3	31.3
26-50%	4.2	10.7	3.1
51%+	1.2	0	3.1

**17. DO YOU EXPECT TO INCREASE YOUR EXPORTS IN THE COMING YEAR?**

Yes	23.1	18.3	25.0	29.6
No	76.9	81.7	75.0	70.4
No Answer	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

**18. ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE HIRING EMPLOYEES?**

Yes	50.0	28.1	25.0	6.1
No	50.0	71.9	75.0	93.9

	<u>June 2001</u>	<u>October 2001</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>June 2003</u>
<b>19. IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE, WHY? [TOP SIX REASONS LISTED — WRITTEN ANSWERS]</b>				
Lack of Qualified Applicants	N/A	26.2%	33.4%	100%
Labor Shortage	N/A	8.1	0	0
Education	N/A	4.0	0	0
Availability	N/A	3.4	16.7	0
Can't Compete with Wages/Benefits	N/A	3.4	33.4	0
Irresponsible Workers	N/A	3.4	0	0
High Cost of Living, Small Area	N/A	N/A	16.7	0

	<u>June 2001</u>	<u>October 2001</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>June 2003</u>
<b>20. IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE, WHAT FIELD? [TOP SIX REASONS LISTED — WRITTEN ANSWERS]</b>				
Entry Level	N/A	11.8	0	0
All	N/A	8.4	0	0
Machinists	N/A	4.2	0	0
Labor	N/A	3.4	0	0
Sales	N/A	3.4	20.0	50.0
Welders	N/A	3.4	0	0
Professional	N/A	N/A	40.0	50.0
Senior Professional	N/A	N/A	20.0	0
Unskilled and Professional	N/A	N/A	20.0	0

	<u>June 2001</u>	<u>October 2001</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>June 2003</u>
<b>21. DO YOU THINK THINGS IN WISCONSIN ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, OR ON THE WRONG TRACK?</b>				
Right Direction	N/A	69.4	38.5	38.7
Wrong Track	N/A	30.6	61.5	61.3

	<u>June 2001</u>	<u>October 2001</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>June 2003</u>
<b>22. WOULD YOU SAY THAT STATE GOVERNMENT HERE IS:</b>				
Very pro-business	N/A	2.3	3.4	0
Somewhat pro-business	N/A	43.2	37.9	21.9
Neutral on business	N/A	25.6	17.2	34.4
Somewhat anti-business	N/A	26.2	41.4	37.5
Very anti-business	N/A	2.8	0	6.3

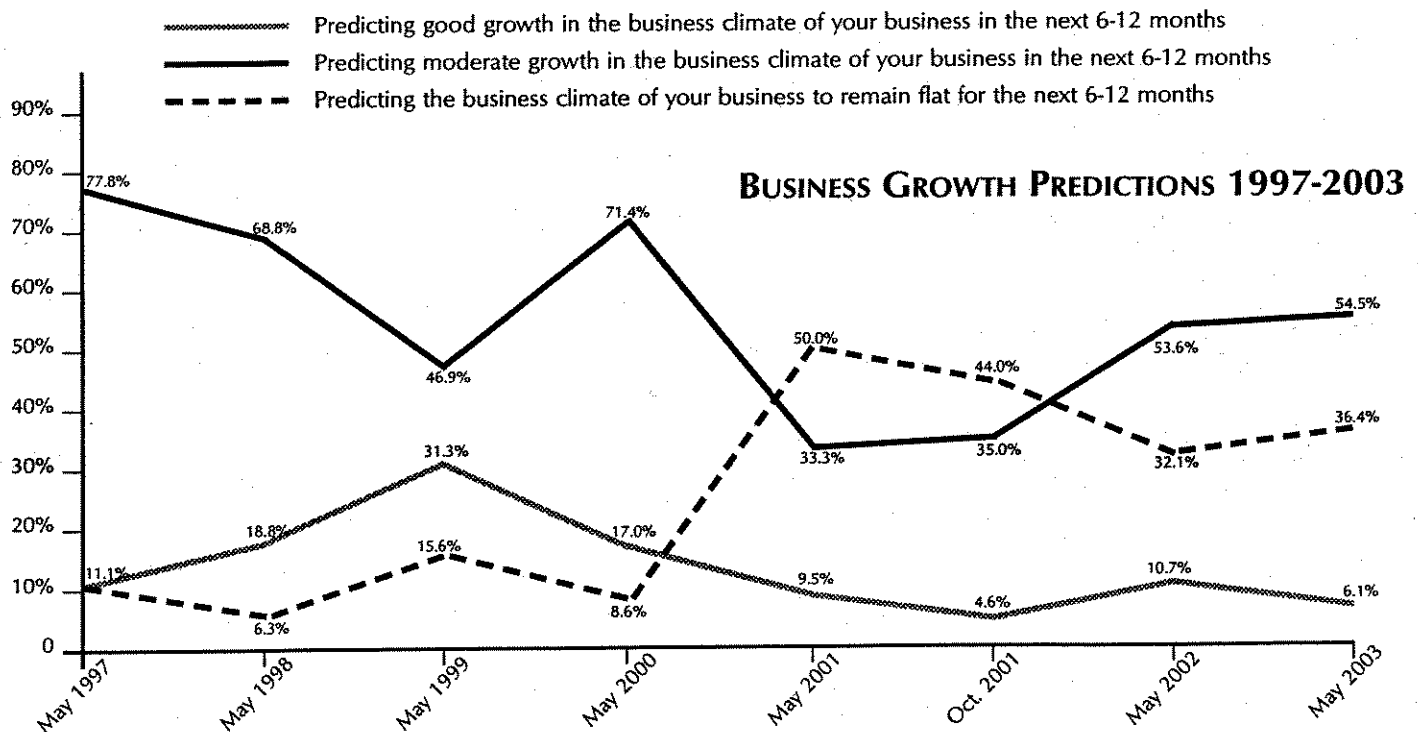
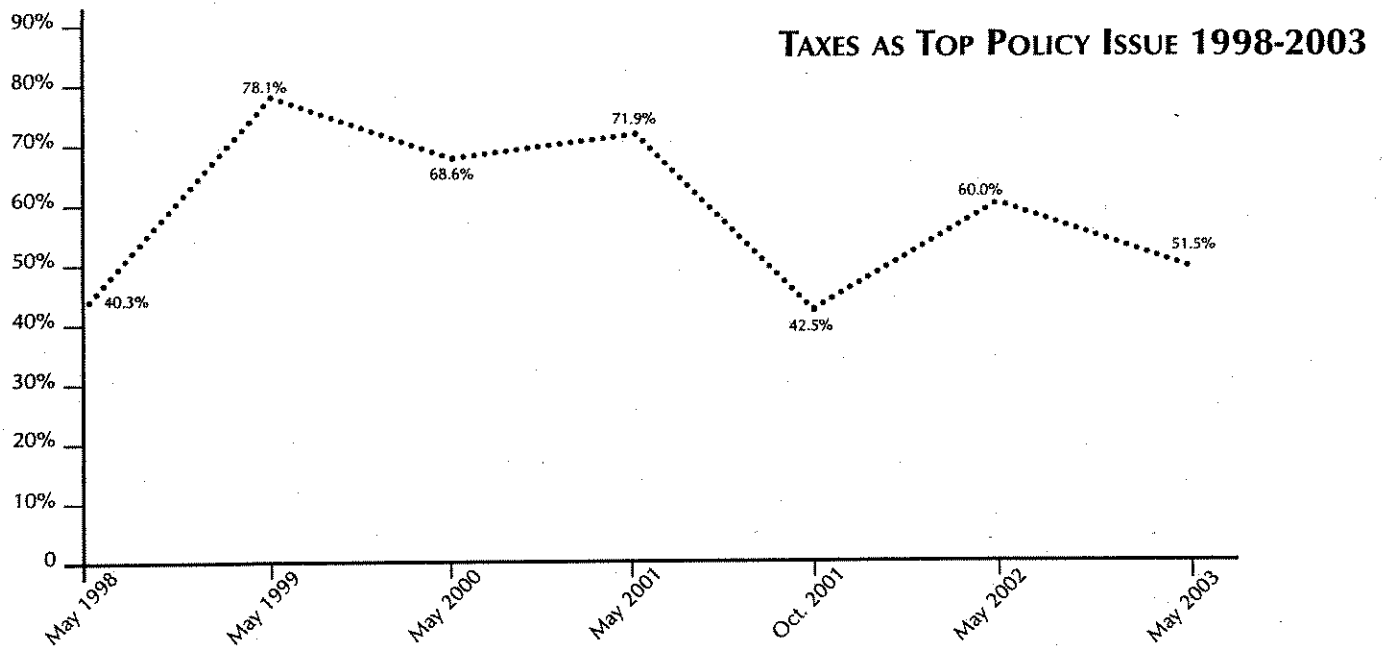
	<u>June 2001</u>	<u>October 2001</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>June 2003</u>
<b>23. DO YOU PLAN TO EXPAND IN WISCONSIN IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO?</b>				
Yes	N/A	26.5	13.8	25.0
No	N/A	73.5	86.2	75.0

	<u>June 2001</u>	<u>October 2001</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>June 2003</u>
<b>24. DO YOU PLAN TO EXPAND IN ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO?</b>				
Yes	N/A	24.8	57.1	51.5
No	N/A	75.2	42.9	48.5

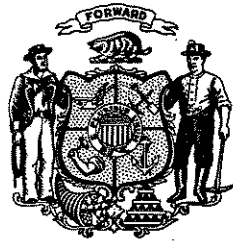
	<u>June 2001</u>	<u>October 2001</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>June 2003</u>
<b>25. DO YOU PLAN TO RELOCATE TO ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO?</b>				
Yes	N/A	2.1	3.8	3.0
No	N/A	97.9	96.2	97.0

# A look at key answers over time ...

Businesses consistently rank Wisconsin's high taxes as the state's top policy problem. Intensity on the question declined in October 2001 in a survey of 593 WMC-member CEOs during the state's economic slowdown. In October 2001, 42.5 percent of WMC members rated the economic slowdown as the state's top policy problem. For six consecutive years, WMC board members have rated high taxes as the state's No. 1 policy problem.



*END*



*END*

**Rasmussen, Pat**

---

**From:** Audra Millen [AMILLE@milwaukee.gov]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2003 6:16 PM

**To:** sen.brown@legis.state.wi.us; sen.moore@legis.state.wi.us; sen.plale@legis.state.wi.us;  
sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us; sen.stepp@legis.state.wi.us

**Subject:** TIF comments - City of Milwaukee

Comments attached

Audra D. Millen  
Intergovernmental Relations Division  
414-286-5593

November 6, 2003

Sen. Stepp & Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing:

The City of Milwaukee has not yet taken a formal position on LRB-3137/1, but we did want to provide initial feedback based on earlier drafts. We appreciate the efforts on behalf of Sen. Stepp and Rep. Lehman to address existing TIF challenges. However, a few concerns with the draft have been raised internally, which we hope the committee will consider prior to introduction of the bill.

**I. Of primary concern is the elimination of the restriction on including newly platted residential projects in TIFs.** This would represent a major departure from the intended use of TIF and create a tax-payer supported subsidy where one is not needed. Newly platted residential subdivisions have been developed and continue to be without a need for subsidy. Not only will this provision create another incentive for sprawl, it will also create an expectation for a TIF for any future residential projects that otherwise would have proceeded unaided.

While summaries of the bill indicate that this is simply a return to prior practice that is not the case. The original TIF law was silent on the inclusion of newly platted residential projects within TIFs. The language was subsequently modified to strictly prohibit such inclusion as a way of preserving the primary intent of the TIF tool – to support redevelopment in blighted areas where such development would not otherwise occur. In contrast, this bill specifically authorizes the inclusion of 35% newly platted residential projects within “mixed-use” districts **and** eliminates the clear prohibition for all other types of districts, blurring the intent and opening the door for abuse.

While there may be situations where a mixed-use TIF can be justified within the intent of the program, the current language does not include any limitations to ensure that such districts are used appropriately.

**II. A second concern is that the TIF expansions proposed in this draft go beyond the recommendations of the governor’s task force.** For example, the governor’s task force recommended expanding the expenditure period to 10 years, whereas the proposal would extend it to 18 years. While we recognize the need for flexibility and that such extensions would be permissive within each community, we do have some concerns that such options could decrease support for TIFs among our underlying taxing jurisdictions.

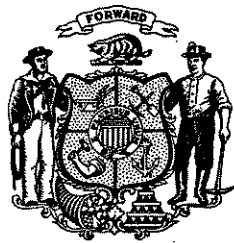
We hope that you will consider these concerns seriously prior to introduction of the bill. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or want more information.

Sincerely,

Audra D. Millen, Legislative Policy Manager  
City of Milwaukee 414-286-5593



*END*



*END*

CITY OF MILWAUKEE  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS DIVISION

Phone: 414/286-3747

Fax: 414/286-8547



FAX COVER SHEET

To:

*Senator Ronald Brown, Senator Gwen Moore, ✓  
Senator Jeffrey Plole, Senator Carol Roessler, Senator Cathy Stepp ✓*

From:

*Audra Miller*

Date:

*11/6/03*

No. of Pages:

*1*

Phone:

Fax:

Message:

[www.jsonline.com](http://www.jsonline.com)[Return to regular view](#)Original URL: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/editorials/jul03/156310.asp>

## Editorial: MMSD's credibility gap

From the Journal Sentinel

*Last Updated: July 19, 2003*

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Commissioner Bill Christofferson says district officials are not shopping around for experts to contradict a study that claims the district has been severely underreporting the volume of raw sewage that has been dumped into area waterways. By seeking to review the findings, officials are just "looking to make the program work" and make sure the study's results are accurate.

Maybe, but the public could be forgiven for thinking this is a duck since it sure walks and quacks like one. District officials will need to do a lot more work to convince the public otherwise.

According to the district-financed study by Milwaukee-based Triad Engineering, MMSD, in reports filed with the state, underestimated by 72% the amount of raw sewage dumped after three large storms. District officials received the final report in December, but its contents did not become public until the Journal Sentinel obtained a copy this month. Even district commissioners were kept out of the loop.

Executive Director Kevin Shafer has apologized for not disclosing the study earlier, but his apologies have raised other questions. In a letter apologizing to the state Department of Natural Resources, for example, Shafer said critical computer software had not been successfully installed or tested by Triad. He also said the new program was in the possession of a Triad subcontractor who no longer was working on the project.

But a Triad engineer told the Journal Sentinel's Marie Rohde and Steve Schultze that the software had in fact been turned over to MMSD. Asked about the contradiction, Shafer admitted that the district had the software but that it wasn't working properly because of "glitches" and that he still thinks the Triad study findings are suspect. Maybe Shafer is right, but the way the district has been handling these issues doesn't exactly instill confidence.

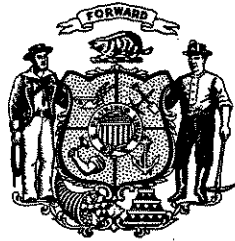
About a month ago, another report essentially said that, while there was room for improvement, the district was in good hands and that water quality has improved markedly since the deep tunnel project was completed. One of the biggest problems, that report said, was the district's poor image among the public.

Well, when the results of a major study are withheld, apparently because officials aren't happy with them, the resulting image is bound to be a bit tarnished. Nor does it help when the DNR announces it will try to prosecute MMSD over the dumping last week of 250,000 gallons of untreated sewage into Lincoln Creek, although MMSD deserves credit for quickly terminating the contract of the firm responsible for the dumping.

Secrets, obfuscation and state investigations tend to result in poor perceptions. Improving those perceptions is actually quite simple, and it doesn't require spending a lot of money on public relations firms. Just reduce the overflow of untreated and partially treated sewage - and be upfront with the public even when the news isn't good.

From the July 20, 2003 editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

*END*



*END*



**Cooperative Environmental Assistance Bureau**

**The Partnership**

- Phase One Implementation Plan
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Articles
- Remarks From Gov. Tommy Thompson
- Statement by Minister Schnappauf
- Remarks by George Meyer
- Sustainable Communities Project

**Lost? Try the CEA Sitewide Map**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**to create the WISCONSIN-BAVARIA REGULATORY REFORM WORKING PARTNERSHIP**

This MOU is made by and between the: State of Wisconsin and WI Dept. of Natural Resources and Bavarian State Ministry for Regional Development and Environmental Affairs

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's and Bavaria's traditions of excellence and innovation in government and commerce present an opportunity for innovation to benefit our states' ecological and economic futures; and

WHEREAS, Ecologically-conscious, voluntary Partnerships among business and government units are necessary for positive, credible and enduring change; and

WHEREAS, Policies and practices in the public, private and non-governmental may change to meet compatible needs that the command and control regulatory system is unlikely to meet, and

WHEREAS, Business and governments desire benefits from efficient systems and lean organizations that support their competitive positions; and

WHEREAS, Regulatory simplification and environmental performance systems can maintain compliance to standards and produce greater, verified environmental results, and

WHEREAS, The integration of business process systems can produce verified protection for employees, employers and consumers who value safe workplaces and quality products; and

WHEREAS, This Agreement will benefit a sustaining global environment, trans-Atlantic commerce and the People of Bavaria and Wisconsin; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Bavarian State Ministry for Regional Development and Environmental Affairs agree, referring to the Agenda 21 (Chapt. 30, 38, 39) and the U.S.- EU New Trans-Atlantic Agenda from December 3rd 1995, to create the Wisconsin - Bavarian Regulatory Reform Working Partnership in consideration of their respective responsibilities and consistent with Constitutional and legal frameworks in both states; that with reference to the worldwide goal Sustainable Development the Working Partnership's goal shall be to reach a sustaining economic and environmental system in our states and beyond our states by way of self-responsibility of all parties; that we shall achieve more cooperation between government and business than is possible under the command and control method; and that voluntary agreements and environmental management systems (EMSs) are the decisive aspects to achieving performance and

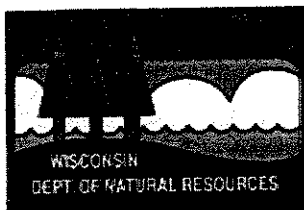
therefore most important objects of exploration in the Working Partnership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT BOTH PARTIES.

- Agree to establish joint projects to promote businesses' participation in EMSs verified/certified to EMAS/150 14000 et seq. standards according to the principles of performance audits and legal compliance;
- Agree to strive for integrated environmental, occupational health and risk management systems, which ensure an efficient and lean organization, with greater results;
- Agree especially to support the cooperation with and among small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with regard to environmental performance and compliance strategies;
- Agree to welcome business group or public sector cooperation with agreements on new management systems approaches;
- Agree to propagate the awareness of need for the EMS approach in the new era of environmental law among all social players (business, government, non- government organizations and local authorities);
- Agree to promote the exploration of EDP (Electronic Data Processing) support for compliance systems within the homework of EMSs;
- Agree to support a trans-Atlantic academic partnership between experts in engineering, technology, environmental management and new regulatory systems at institutions such as the University of Wisconsin and Bavarian universities; also to further the research into and the development of environmental technologies;
- Agree to work on a common international environmental law project in cooperation with the International Environmental Lawyers' Network (I.E.L.N.) and other competent partners;
- Agree to consider an offensive trans-Atlantic personnel exchange between business, government and non-government sectors for opening the door to inspect, learn and share mutually best practices that protect the environment, enhance the economy and promote good government
- Agree to publish annual statements of results of our cooperative efforts on the basis of this memorandum to demonstrate that this is a results-driven agreement.

*Signed by Gov. Tommy G. Thompson and Dr. Werner Schnappauf in Munich, Germany, December 1, 1998*

Cea Home  
Back to Top  
Last Revised: Thursday May 22 2003

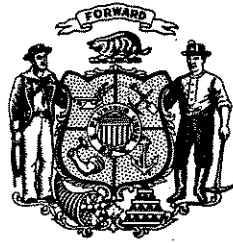


---

[Top of Page](#) || [Home](#) || [Search](#) || [Feedback](#) || [What's New?](#)

<http://dnr.wi.gov/>  
[Legal notices and disclaimers](#)

*END*



*END*



March 3, 2004

Mr. Sam Rockweiler  
STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
P.O. Box 2689  
Madison, WI 53701-2689

**Re:     Hearing of Proposed Rules  
        Code Change Proposal  
        Smoke & Heat Vents**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please enter the following written comment into the minutes of the Public Hearing of Proposed Rules.

On August 14, 2003, Keller, Inc. submitted a Code Change Proposal regarding smoke and heat vents. This topic is referenced in the 2002 Wisconsin Enrolled Code Section 910. The following are excerpts from the original Code Change Proposal on file with your office:

1. The issue with the current code requiring Smoke and Heat Vents (S & HV) and Curtain Boards (CB) in most storage and factory occupancies is as follows:
  - a. The subject is very controversial and not ready for codification. There is no consensus agreement on design of smoke and heat vents in sprinklered buildings.
  - b. Some smoke will still descend due to cooling and down drag from the automatic sprinkler system reducing the effectiveness of (S & HV).
  - c. Smoke and heat vents were originally intended for only unsprinklered buildings.
  - d. Smoke and heat vents rely on buoyancy of smoke alone to work. This requires a significant difference in temperature between the outside and the smoke layer which doesn't always exist.
  - e. A number of smoke and heat vents (S & HV) need to open automatically to provide the needed exhaust capacity. FM Global reports that in fire tests and in actual fires few, if any, (S & HV) open automatically.
  - f. Large scale tests proposed by American Architectural Manufacturers Association have not yet been completed. This data is needed before considering the practicality of (S & HV).
  - g. Delaying the operation of venting in the immediate fire area actually helped to prevent hampering of Automatic Sprinkler (AS) effectiveness.
  - h. Curtain boards are required to be located over aisles not over racks to be effective, but owners will not move curtain boards (CB) when they rearrange racking because of the expense.



- i. In 1994, FM Global did two sets of tests; one with (CB) and one with no (CB). They found that if a fire starts near a (CB), a potential for a (CB) to delay the operation of adjacent sprinklers exist.
  - j. Curtain boards (CB) can channel heat away from fire areas causing more sprinklers not beneficial to fire control to operate.
  - k. Sprinkler water cooling the smoke and loosing its buoyancy will push smoke downward allowing smoke to move horizontally below the (CB).
  - l. FM Global concludes that the requirements for (S & HV) in sprinklered buildings doesn't seem to be driven by life safety and (S & HV) should not be code required.
  - m. UL conducted a series of large scale fire tests as part of NFPRF research project. UL found that in five tests, few or no vents operated while many of the sprinkler heads did operate.
  - n. During initial stages of a fire, it is usually best to keep the building closed to limit the supply of air while the sprinkler gains control.
  - o. Vents opening before firefighter's arrival would supply more fresh air to the fire, resulting in greater fuel consumption.
2. The following is a list of supporting documents that are attached to the original Code Change Proposal.
  - a. Factory Mutual Property Loss Prevention Data Sheets 1-10  
"Smoke and Heat Venting in Sprinklered Buildings".
  - b. National Fire Sprinkler Association  
"NFPA 13/Chapter 12, Section 12.1.1: Roof Vents and Draft Curtains"
  - c. National Institute of Standards and Technology and Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.  
"Large Scale Test of Sprinkler, Vent, Draft Curtain Interaction"
  - d. National Fire Sprinkler Association Booklet  
"Sprinkler Protection for Warehouse and Storage Occupancies"
  - e. Factory Mutual Insurance Company  
"Letter from Robert L. Turnquist P.E., Group Manager"
  - f. GE GAP Guidelines  
"Heat and Smoke Venting and Draft Curtains"
  - g. Industrial Risk Insurers – Loss Prevention  
"Are Heat and Smoke Vents and Draft Curtains Needed"
3. The issue is statewide. It reaches virtually everyone in a commercial building with product stored over 12'0" high. At some point, every manufacturer and warehouse owner in the State of Wisconsin will have something stored over 12'0" high, qualifying it as "high piled storage" requiring smoke and heat vents.

Every major fire insurance underwriter in the country is opposed to the arbitrary installation of roof vents and draft curtains in buildings equipped with normal Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems. They are the people that pay for the fire losses and base their fire protection requirements on actuaries and laboratory testing. We should follow their advice and not unduly burden Wisconsin businesses.

4. Changes need to be considered now; we can't wait for ICC to possibly address this issue in 2006 when they will be revising the IBC. The cost to Wisconsin businesses is too high now. Please examine all the Petitions For Variance your staff has processed. Read the comments by local fire chiefs and your own reviewers. By virtue of all of the variances being granted, something must be wrong. Wisconsin building owners should not have to go through the expense and hassle to prove they don't need something that all of the experts say is not useful in a sprinklered building.

Most municipalities do not have the water pressure required to operate (ESFR) sprinklers. Therefore, a booster pump is needed which can require an enlarged electrical service. Once (ESFR) sprinklers are installed, they cannot be moved to accommodate revised floor plans. They should not be asked to use the expensive Early-Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinklers to avoid (S & HV) which are not beneficial in a regularly sprinklered building.

In the end, the more expensive we make buildings and the harder we make it for Wisconsin businesses to operate and expand, the more businesses will leave the state or decide that the expense and hassle to expand does not outweigh the benefits. In time, the code will hinder the state's economy from growing. We need an emergency rule now before more owners are forced to install (S & HV) or (ESFR) sprinklers that are not needed.

5. The cost of Smoke and Heat Venting (S & HV) and Curtain Boards (CB) are too high for Wisconsin businesses but besides the cost, the intent of the code is not being met evidenced by the large number of approved Petitions for Variances.

*Example:* On a typical 14,790 square foot warehouse, the cost of (S & HV) was \$25,237.00 or \$1.71/sq. ft. The cost of (CB) was \$10,679.00 or \$0.72/sq. ft. Therefore, the combined cost was \$2.43/sq. ft. This compares to \$1.50/sq. ft. for most complete sprinkler systems.

Since (S & HV) and (CB) can actually decrease life safety and the costs are so high with little to no benefit to the building owner, or occupants, it stands to reason that their requirement in sprinklered buildings should be eliminated.

Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinklers are not the answer either. They will add as much as \$0.50/square foot over a regular sprinkler system. In addition to the extra cost of the system in most cases a booster pump in a rated room will be needed. This could cost \$50,000.00 alone. The extra cost of electric service could be another \$15,000.00. Why support a more expensive sprinkler system for a problem that doesn't exist?

Tests have shown and experts have determined that smoke venting and heat curtains do not significantly increase building safety or property protection.

Please consider introducing this code change in your draft of proposed rules. Controversial subject matter should not be a reason that building owners in the State of Wisconsin should have to wait until 2006 for a remedy.

Many individuals support this code change as evidenced by the co-signatures appearing on this document and others who will be responding individually.

Respectfully submitted,  
**KELLER, INC.**



Steven L. Klessig, A.I.A.  
V.P. Architecture & Engineering

---

Co-Signature