

☛ **05hr\_JC-Au\_Misc\_pt43**



☛ Details: Audit requests, 2006

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

### 2005-06

(session year)

### Joint

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

### Committee on Audit...

#### COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

#### INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**



## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

June 2, 2006

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 8- South  
State Capitol  
*INTER-DEPARTMENTAL*

Dear Senator Roessler:

I am writing in support of Racine County's request for an audit of DOR practices relating to the calculation, collection and payment of local sales tax proceeds, focusing in particular on the five-county sales tax levied for Miller Park.

Businesses and taxpayers in Racine County who are asked to continue paying this tax until the stadium's debt is paid off clearly have a strong interest in ensuring that the .1% tax is collected and distributed accurately.

The department has acknowledged significant problems with Integrated Tax System software and stated it will not be able to assure confidence in the system until this fall at the earliest. In addition, a preliminary Audit Bureau review counseled caution in seeking to address overpayments until confidence in DOR's system can be restored.

With acknowledged problems with the ITS system and businesses and local governments disputing the stated level of sales tax collection in the 5-county area, I believe the excellent reputation and track record of the Audit Bureau's work can be an important component of ensuring confidence and, most importantly, accuracy.

Therefore, I am writing in support of Racine County's request for an audit of DOR's collection, calculation and payment of local sales tax proceeds, especially those related to the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT WIRCH  
State Senator  
22nd District

RWW:gg





# TED KANAVAS

## STATE SENATOR

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

JUN 14 2006

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Audit  
8 South, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Rep. Sue Jeskewitz  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Audit  
314 North, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Dear Co-Chairs Roessler and Jeskewitz:

The purpose of this letter is to formally request an audit of the procurement and bid process that is currently being employed by the Executive Branch Agencies as defined in Wis. Stats. 16.75. Specifically, I would like to have the audit examine contracts that have been awarded since January 1, 2004.

In the wake of the recent fraud conviction of Ms. Georgia Thompson of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the public deserves to understand the viability of the current procurement and bid processes to ensure that future illegal acts do not take place. With campaign contributions being a major factor in the Georgia Thompson case, it is important to audit the recent major contracts awarded by the state to bring to light any further problems with the Administration's practices.

I have full faith that the Legislative Audit Bureau will be able to provide the Legislature with a clear understanding of both the positives and the negatives of the procurement and bid processes. Unfortunately, it has taken a felonious act by a member of the Administration to bring potential flaws in the system to the foreground. Nonetheless, the public will be better served if a non-partisan entity looks more closely at this issue.

Legitimate bidders, the institution of government and the taxpayers of this state have suffered enough from this case of fraud in the bid process. I thank you in advance for your consideration of this much needed audit. If you have any further questions, or need clarification regarding my request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

TED KANAVAS  
State Senator  
33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. BOX 7882 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882  
(608) 266-9174 • (800) 863-8883 • FAX: (608) 264-6914

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. R. Roth Judd  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Ethic Board  
44 East Mifflin Street, Ste. 601  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Judd:

I write to request a full ethics investigation into the current procurement practices employed by the Executive Branch agencies in awarding various contract.

Recently a Department of Administration employee, Ms. Georgia Thompson, was convicted of fraud for altering the bid process of a travel contract. Fraudulent practices in the bidding process hurts legitimate bidders, tarnishes the public trust, and wastes the taxpayer's dollars.

In light of this conviction, I request a full ethics investigation into whether or not state laws have been followed by the Doyle Administration and other Executive Branch employees who are involved in awarding state contracts. I would like the Ethics Board's final report to specifically address state law, with close attention to Wis. Stat. 16.75.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

TED KANAVAS  
State Senator  
33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

**SENATOR TED KANAVAS**

33RD DISTRICT

[Home](#)[Biography](#)[Contact Me](#)[Constituent](#)[Press Room](#)[Legislation](#)

June 14, 2006

**Kanavas Seeks Investigation into State Contracts  
Asks for Ethics Investigation and Legislative Audit**

(Madison, June 14, 2006)...State Senator Ted Kanavas (R-Brookfield) sent letters today to the State Ethic Board an ethics investigation and audit into the Doyle Administration's handling of state contracts.

"We deserve to know the truth about what is going on within the Doyle Administration. The only way to reassess rules is to have a non-partisan audit of the process and an independent ethics investigation," said Kanavas.

In response to the conviction of Georgia Thompson, Senator Kanavas sent a letter to the executive Director of investigation into the bidding process of state contracts from January 1, 2004 up to the present day. In addition, the Joint Committee on Audit, Senator Kanavas requested the non-partisan Legislative Audit Bureau analyze the procurement process. The Bureau will be able to examine the viability of the current system.

"A fraud conviction of a Doyle Administration employee is disturbing enough on its own, but the people need to know if it was not, we need to be able to permanently fix the system so that this never happens again," Kanavas concluded.

Please visit Senator Kanavas' website to learn more about Senator Kanavas' initiatives and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District.  
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen33/news>

[Letter to the Wisconsin Ethics Board](#)

[Letter to the Joint Committee on Audit Co-Chairs](#)

[← Back to 2006 Press Releases](#)

[Home](#) | [Biography](#) | [Contact Me](#) | [Constituent Info](#) | [Press Room](#) |

[33rd District](#) | [E-mail Updates](#) | [Links](#)



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

*Joint Legislative Audit Committee*

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

June 19, 2006

Senator Ted Kanavas  
10 South, P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Kanavas:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee





State Representative  
**John Lehman**

June 14, 2006

JUN 14 2006

JUN 13 2006

Senator Carol Roessler	Representative Sue Jeskewitz
Co-Chair	Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Audit	Joint Committee on Audit
8 South – State Capitol	314 North – State Capitol

Dear Senator Roessler & Representative Jeskewitz:

I am writing today to renew my November 4, 2005 request for a full audit of the Department of Revenue.

It is my understanding that when the members of the Miller Park Board met yesterday, they raised the possibility of extending the 2014 sunset date for the 0.1% sales tax collection by counties in the Southeastern Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District.

According to the enclosed June 13<sup>th</sup> *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article, through the first five months of this year, the district received \$9.9 million in sales tax distributions – approximately \$1.2 million below projections. One of the reasons cited by the Board for the falling revenue was a concern about the software the Department of Revenue installed in 2002 to track sales tax distributions statewide. They feel problems with this software have contributed to the decrease in sales tax distributions to the District.

I understand that you are receiving regular reports from the Legislative Audit Bureau as part of their annual financial audit of the Department. However, in light of the gravity of this situation, I am renewing my request for a full audit of the Department of Revenue.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

State Representative John Lehman  
62nd Assembly District

JL/jms  
enc.

State Capitol:  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708  
Toll-free: 1-888-534-0062  
(608) 266-0634  
Fax: (608) 282-3662  
E-Mail:  
rep.lehmanj@legis.state.wi.us  
Legislative Hotline:  
1-800-362-9472

Home:  
2421 James Boulevard  
Racine, WI 53403  
(262) 632-3330

June 14, 2006

Senator Carol Roessler	Representative Sue Jeskewitz
Co-Chair	Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Audit	Joint Committee on Audit
8 South – State Capitol	314 North – State Capitol

Dear Senator Roessler & Representative Jeskewitz:

I am writing today to renew my November 4, 2005 request for a full audit of the Department of Revenue.

It is my understanding that when the members of the Miller Park Board met yesterday, they raised the possibility of extending the 2014 sunset date for the 0.1% sales tax collection by counties in the Southeastern Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District.

According to the enclosed June 13<sup>th</sup> *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article, through the first five months of this year, the district received \$9.9 million in sales tax distributions – approximately \$1.2 million below projections. One of the reasons cited by the Board for the falling revenue was a concern about the software the Department of Revenue installed in 2002 to track sales tax distributions statewide. They feel problems with this software have contributed to the decrease in sales tax distributions to the District.

I understand that you are receiving regular reports from the Legislative Audit Bureau as part of their annual financial audit of the Department. However, in light of the gravity of this situation, I am renewing my request for a full audit of the Department of Revenue.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

State Representative John Lehman  
62nd Assembly District

JL/jms  
enc.



[www.jsonline.com](http://www.jsonline.com) | [Return to regular view](#)

**Original Story URL:**

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=435377>

## Sales tax revenue worries Miller Park board

### Stadium tax might last past 2014 if receipts don't meet estimates

By **DON WALKER**  
[dwalker@journalsentinel.com](mailto:dwalker@journalsentinel.com)

*Posted: June 13, 2006*

With sales tax revenue continuing to fall below forecasts, members of the Miller Park stadium board are becoming increasingly nervous that they may not be able to retire the stadium sales tax in 2014.

*Advertisement* The situation remains fluid, and a clearer picture may not be known for months. But at Tuesday's board meeting, members said that if the disappointing sales tax numbers continue, the tax may have to be extended.

At issue is the 0.1% sales tax that is collected in Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine, Washington and Ozaukee counties and the board's stated goal that it wants the tax to end in 2014. The revenue is used to retire the debt on the financing of Miller Park.

Through the first five months of this year, the district has received \$9.9 million in sales tax distributions from the state, nearly \$1.2 million below projections. Compared with the first five months of last year, distributions are down 0.5%, district figures show.

"We were outperforming our projections until the end of 2002," said Mike Duckett, the district's executive director. "Since then, we have been underperforming."

From 1997 to 2002, the average annual growth in the district's sales tax collections was 7.9%, compared with state growth of 4.7% in the same time period. From 2003 to 2005, however, collections decreased an average of 0.11%. Statewide during that period, average growth was 3.4%.

Should the trend continue the rest of this year, the district could fall \$4.5 million short of projections.

"We are in danger of not making 2014," Duckett said.

Three factors drive the district's ability to pay off stadium debt by 2014: spending by the district, investment earnings and, most important, the sales tax. The tax, in fact, accounts for 97% of all the revenue the district receives to pay off the bonds used to finance the stadium.

For forecast purposes, the district assumes it can get a 3.5% annual return on its investments and banks on a 5.5% annual growth rate in sales tax distributions.

Complicating the picture is an ongoing concern with software that the state Department of Revenue installed in December 2002 to track sales tax distributions statewide. District officials believe the software problems are connected to the downturn in sales tax distributions to the district.

The Legislative Audit Bureau has been asked to review the state program, but a report is not expected until the end of the year. In the meantime, state revenue officials say additional testing of the system is being done to assure the program works properly.

Stadium district officials have tried to enlist support from counties that also collect a sales tax. Jay Williams, chairman of the stadium district board, said, however, that one-third of the counties have reported higher sales tax distributions, one-third have stayed the same, and one-third have experienced decreases.

Williams said district consultants would be asked to come up with new forecasts for the years ahead.

From the June 14, 2006 editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Have an opinion on this story? [Write a letter to the editor](#) or start an [online forum](#).

Subscribe today and receive 4 weeks free! [Sign up now](#).

© 2006, Journal Sentinel Inc. All rights reserved. | Produced by [Journal Interactive](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)  
Journal Sentinel Inc. is a subsidiary of [Journal Communications](#).

**For Immediate Release**  
June 14, 2006

Contact: Rep. John Lehman  
1-888-534-0062

**LEHMAN AGAIN CALLS FOR AUDIT OF DEPARTMENT OF  
REVENUE**

*Miller Park Board says stadium sales tax may not end in 2014*

Madison – State Representative John Lehman (D-Racine) again called on the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Audit to conduct a review of the state's Department of Revenue (DOR) regarding the distribution of sales tax collections by counties in the Southeastern Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District.

“When the Miller Park Board met yesterday, members stated they may have to extend the 2014 sunset date for the 0.1% sales tax if the disappointing sales tax numbers do not improve,” Lehman said. **“This is not an option.”**

Lehman renewed his request today to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Audit Committee, Senator Carol Roessler and Representative Sue Jeskewitz.

“Last November I asked the committee to investigate why the Department of Revenue was distributing sales tax collections far below county projections,” noted Lehman. “Rather than perform a full audit on the Department, the Co-Chairs elected to allow the Legislative Audit Bureau to review the concerns I raised as part of their annual financial audit of the DOR and report their findings back to the committee. In light of the gravity of the situation and the real possibility that the 2014 sunset date could be extended, I have again asked Senator Roessler and Representative Jeskewitz to renew my request for a full audit of the Department of Revenue.”

According to the Miller Park Board, for the first five months of this year the district received \$9.9 million in sales tax distributions which is approximately \$1.2 million below projections. If revenue continues to fall, the district could be \$4.5 million short of projections, resulting in an extension of the 2014 sunset date for ending the tax on Racine County.

“The extra burden that was placed on Racine County taxpayers by the creation of the stadium district was difficult enough,” Lehman said. “It is unacceptable to me that the 2005 earnings were found to be \$2 million behind projections and now for the first five months of this year sales tax distributions are \$1.2 million below projections. It is crucial that we find out why the Department of Revenue continues to have problems distributing much-needed sales tax collections to our state's counties,” concluded Lehman.

###

**For Immediate Release**  
June 16, 2006

Contact: Rep. John Lehman  
1-888-534-0062

**LEHMAN BACKS AUDIT'S CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY**  
*Gateway and Applied Technology Centers still have work to do*  
*Have not yet lived up to original financial promises*

Madison – State Representative John Lehman (D-Racine) said that the audit released today on Gateway Technical College and the Applied Technology Centers by the state's non-partisan Legislative Audit Bureau is a necessary step toward improving accountability for the taxpayers of Racine.

"I'm sure the Gateway College Board members and the two applied technology center boards will profit from the detailed recommendations. Our audit clearly shows how local taxpayers are still shouldering the burden for the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation (CATI) in Sturtevant and the Center for Bioscience and the Integration of Computer and Telecommunications Technology (BioCATT) in Kenosha," Lehman said.

"While Gateway and the local property taxpayers are picking up the tab to pay off construction loans, private contributions are seriously lagging. By the same token, the expected in-kind contribution from business was \$3.7 million while the actual value per recent estimate is only \$0.8 million. On top of that, the inflated projection of 2000 students per year far exceeds the 99 students reported in March of 2006. The centers are costly to the taxpayers and are underutilized," noted Lehman.

The audit also called into question the fiber-optic agreement at BioCATT in Kenosha.

"It looks like the taxpayers are going to be on the hook for this one for years to come," Lehman said. "As we move into the future, we must follow the Legislative Audit Bureau's recommendations. I have been saying all along that we have to clearly distinguish those services provided by Gateway from the services provided by BioCatt and CATI. The audit I requested has helped us all get a better picture of where the dividing lines should be between the college and the applied technology centers," Lehman concluded.

###



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

**Joint Audit Committee**

Committee Co-Chairs:

State Senator Carol Roessler

State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

June 22, 2006

Representative John Lehman  
State Capitol, 303 West  
HAND DELIVERED

Dear Representative Lehman:

We received the requests that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of those requests.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

*Joint Legislative Audit Committee*

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

June 19, 2006

Senator Ted Kanavas  
10 South, P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Kanavas:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee





# Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

JUN 21 2006

June 21, 2006

The Honorable Carol Roessler, State Senator  
Co-Chair Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
8 South, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Susan Jeskewitz, State Representative  
Co-Chair Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 314 North, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Jeskewitz:

We are writing as a follow-up to yesterday's hearing regarding the Fish and Wildlife Fund audit. The current audit was obviously conducted with a high degree of professionalism and thoroughly examined the scope originally requested. However, it seems clear that there are additional issues which need to be addressed.

As you know, written comments within the audit document the need for additional, more accurate and complete information from the agency. That need was further demonstrated yesterday by testimony from the auditors and others. Therefore, we would respectfully request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, under your leadership as co-chairs, authorize a follow-up audit.

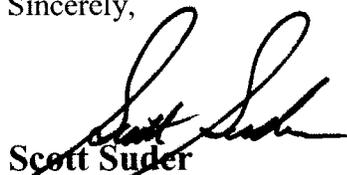
We believe the scope of the follow-up audit should include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- A total accounting of the number of hours worked by the 649 LTEs assigned to Fish and Wildlife. This should include: Where each position is located, what specific tasks are performed by each LTE (the current audit and our follow up conversations with Audit Bureau personnel indicate that job descriptions and time coding will not clearly nor accurately provide factual and complete information.) Since the current audit did not include any information about these positions, we need to clarify exactly what portion of Fish and Wildlife accounts are being used to fund these jobs and what hunters, anglers and trappers are getting for that money.

- A position analysis of each of the 874 FTE positions assigned to Fish and Wildlife, including where each position is located and, again the specific tasks each performs. In their testimony, both Secretary Hassett and former Secretary Meyer indicated that administration expenses for Bureau supervisors could not be calculated because employees in these positions also do field work. This accounting by task would clearly delineate the amount used for administration.
- A comparison of the number of employees working in Fish and Wildlife activities in Wisconsin as compared to the 49 states. Since information was provided comparing Wisconsin to other states in expenditures and funding sources, we believe this information will shed additional light on those comparisons.
- An examination of what other states include as administration expenses, any limitations of these expenditures and what those limits are.
- The total number of acres and facilities held (either owned or leased) by the agency. This should include complete descriptions, geographic location of the properties, fair market value, how the properties are being utilized and if the general public has access to those properties for hunting, fishing and trapping. If those activities are allowed, we'd ask that any restriction(s) on such usage be included.

Thank you in advance for considering our request and we remain hopeful that with your assistance the DNR will become more accountable to the Legislature, general public and Wisconsin's sportsmen and women. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or need any additional information. Your assistance is truly appreciated!

Sincerely,



**Scott Suder**  
*State Representative*  
*Wisconsin's 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District*



**Samantha Kerkman**  
*State Representative*  
*Wisconsin's 66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District*

cc Senator Robert Cowles  
 Senator Scott Fitzgerald  
 Senator Mark Miller  
 Senator Julie Lassa  
 Representative Dean Kaufert  
 Representative David Travis  
 Representative David Cullen  
 Janice Mueller, State Auditor  
 Paul Stuibler, Deputy State Auditor and Contact Person



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information, please contact:  
1-(888) 534-0069

June 20, 2006

State Representative Scott Suder  
(608) 267-0280

## **Suder Raises More Questions About DNR Spending**

*Northern Lawmaker Requests Follow-up Audit of DNR Administrative Costs and Land Ownership*

**Madison** – Pointing to a Fish and Wildlife Fund depleted by a five-year spending spree, State Representative Scott Suder (R-Abbotsford) today asked that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) spending be further investigated.

*“The DNR needs to be made more accountable to the sporting men and women who contribute to the Fish and Wildlife Fund year after year when they purchase their hunting and fishing licenses,” noted Suder. “The DNR operates under the premise that more managers are better; higher administrative costs are a good thing; and deceptive accounting should be common practice. When I talk to my constituents, they are frustrated with the agency’s arrogance and out-of-whack priorities.”*

Speaking to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee today, Suder requested that the committee immediately authorize a follow-up audit to investigate the use of Limited Term Employees (LTEs) by the DNR, the tasks being performed by Fish and Wildlife employees, and the total number of acres owned by the agency – including the number of acres that can be accessed for hunting and fishing.

*Suder told committee members, “Last year the DNR spent \$36.5 million on Capital investment and projects out of user fees and the folks footing the bill deserve to know what they are getting for their dollars.” He continued, “The Legislature and members of many of the sporting coalitions remain concerned about the shrinking numbers of sportsmen and women taking to the field and stream. I believe increased user fees and hunting lands closed to the public are major contributors to the drop in these numbers.”*

-more-

In his testimony to the Audit Committee, Suder pointed out that the recently released audit of the Fish and Wildlife Fund raised concerns with:

- Draining a once flush Fish and Wildlife Account
- Drastically increasing expenditures at the same time as user fees are shrinking substantially
- Continued growth of administrative overhead
- Lack of accountability to the Legislature and the general public regarding how the DNR calculates employees' time
- Lack of project planning or any type of goal setting for project completions
- And, the lack of accounting standards utilized by the agency.

The complete Audit report may be accessed on Representative Suder's website at:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm69/news/>.

###



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

**Joint Audit Committee**

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

July 6, 2006

Representative Samantha Kerkman  
103 West, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kerkman:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

**Joint Audit Committee**

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

July 6, 2006

Representative Scott Suder  
21 North, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Suder:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

**Asbjornson, Karen**

---

**From:** Matthews, Pam  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2006 11:37 AM  
**To:** 'George Meyer'  
**Cc:** Sen.Roessler; Rep.Suder; Rep.Kerkman  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-up on Fish and Wildlife Audit

**Attachments:** Suder.Kerkman-DNR Addl Fish-Wildlife Funding 6-21-06.pdf



Suder.Kerkman-  
NR Addl Fish-Wi.

Dear Mr. Meyer,

The co-chairs received the attached request from Representatives Suder and Kerkman following the June 20, 2006 Public Hearing on Audit Report 06-6, an Evaluation: Fish and Wildlife Funding, Department of Natural Resources. Although the co-chairs have not moved forward this request for consideration by the full committee, it has not been rejected and remains in their pending file.

Sincerely,

Pamela B. Matthews  
Committee Clerk  
Office of Representative Sue Jeskewitz

Madison: 608.266.3796  
Toll free: 888.529.0024  
pam.matthews@legis.state.wi.us

-----Original Message-----

From: George Meyer [mailto:georgemeyer@tds.net]  
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2006 7:45 AM  
To: Sen.Roessler; Rep.Jeskewitz  
Subject: Follow-up on Fish and Wildlife Audit

Chairpersons Jeskewitz and Roessler:

At the Legislative Audit Committee hearing on the Fish and Wildlife Account Audit, two members of the Assembly indicated that they would be sending a letter to the Committee Chairs asking for another audit of the Fish and Wildlife Account and setting out specific areas of inquiries.

Has such a letter been received? Can you please send me a copy of the letter? And lastly, what are the intentions of the Committee Chairs relative to any actions on such a request?

Thank you very much,

George Meyer  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation  
201 Randolph Drive

Madison, Wisconsin 53717-1615



# Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

June 21, 2006

The Honorable Carol Roessler, State Senator  
Co-Chair Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
8 South, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Susan Jeskewitz, State Representative  
Co-Chair Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 314 North, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Jeskewitz:

We are writing as a follow-up to yesterday's hearing regarding the Fish and Wildlife Fund audit. The current audit was obviously conducted with a high degree of professionalism and thoroughly examined the scope originally requested. However, it seems clear that there are additional issues which need to be addressed.

As you know, written comments within the audit document the need for additional, more accurate and complete information from the agency. That need was further demonstrated yesterday by testimony from the auditors and others. Therefore, we would respectfully request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, under your leadership as co-chairs, authorize a follow-up audit.

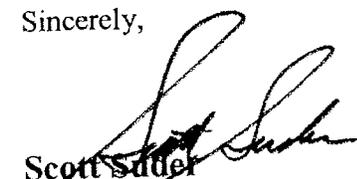
We believe the scope of the follow-up audit should include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- A total accounting of the number of hours worked by the 649 LTEs assigned to Fish and Wildlife. This should include: Where each position is located, what specific tasks are performed by each LTE (the current audit and our follow up conversations with Audit Bureau personnel indicate that job descriptions and time coding will not clearly nor accurately provide factual and complete information.) Since the current audit did not include any information about these positions, we need to clarify exactly what portion of Fish and Wildlife accounts are being used to fund these jobs and what hunters, anglers and trappers are getting for that money.

- A position analysis of each of the 874 FTE positions assigned to Fish and Wildlife, including where each position is located and, again the specific tasks each performs. In their testimony, both Secretary Hassett and former Secretary Meyer indicated that administration expenses for Bureau supervisors could not be calculated because employees in these positions also do field work. This accounting by task would clearly delineate the amount used for administration.
- A comparison of the number of employees working in Fish and Wildlife activities in Wisconsin as compared to the 49 states. Since information was provided comparing Wisconsin to other states in expenditures and funding sources, we believe this information will shed additional light on those comparisons.
- An examination of what other states include as administration expenses, any limitations of these expenditures and what those limits are.
- The total number of acres and facilities held (either owned or leased) by the agency. This should include complete descriptions, geographic location of the properties, fair market value, how the properties are being utilized and if the general public has access to those properties for hunting, fishing and trapping. If those activities are allowed, we'd ask that any restriction(s) on such usage be included.

Thank you in advance for considering our request and we remain hopeful that with your assistance the DNR will become more accountable to the Legislature, general public and Wisconsin's sportsmen and women. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or need any additional information. Your assistance is truly appreciated!

Sincerely,

  
**Scott Sailer**  
*State Representative*  
*Wisconsin's 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District*

  
**Samantha Kerkman**  
*State Representative*  
*Wisconsin's 66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District*

- cc Senator Robert Cowles  
 Senator Scott Fitzgerald  
 Senator Mark Miller  
 Senator Julie Lassa  
 Representative Dean Kaufert  
 Representative David Travis  
 Representative David Cullen  
 Janice Mueller, State Auditor  
 Paul Stuiber, Deputy State Auditor and Contact Person





STATE OF WISCONSIN

Legislative Audit Bureau

22 E. Mifflin St., Ste. 500  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
(608) 266-2818  
Fax (608) 267-0410  
Leg.Audit.Info@legis.state.wi.us

Janice Mueller  
State Auditor

August 10, 2006

Senator Dale Schultz  
211 South, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Representative Sheryl Albers  
3 North, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Senator Schultz and Representative Albers:

Thank you for your letter requesting an audit that quantifies the number of pro se filings by inmates housed in the state's correctional facilities and the associated workload in district attorney offices in the counties where these inmates reside. As you know, we reviewed the weighted caseload formula used to allocate funding for district attorney positions in report 95-24.

Unfortunately, given our current workload, I cannot initiate an audit of this size and scope without the approval of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. I have forwarded a copy of your request to the co-chairpersons of the Committee for their consideration. I will also seek ways to assist the members of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on District Attorney Funding and Administration as they review state funding options for district attorneys and their staffs.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Janice Mueller  
State Auditor

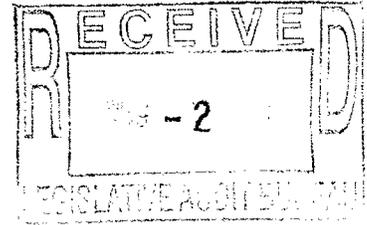
JM/JC/bm

Enclosures

cc: Senator Carol A. Roessler  
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

## Wisconsin Legislature

P.O. Box 7882 - Madison, WI 53707



July 31, 2006

Janice Mueller  
Audit Bureau  
Inter-departmental mail

Dear Ms. Mueller,

For the 2007-09 budget, we plan to propose a modification to the District Attorney weighted caseload formula and request you help with a letter audit by LAB. We contacted Paul Onsager to learn how the current formula works.

We need to determine the amount of additional DA workload that results from the pro se filings by incarcerated persons in the counties that host state prisons, correctional facilities and facilities for sexual predators.

We request a letter audit that obtains information from counties that host state facilities that incarcerate people. The universe would include state correctional facilities/prisons and state sexual predator facilities that have opened after December 31, 1997.

The letter audit would obtain information from the host counties that enables a comparison of the DA workload in the year leading up to the opening of a state facility and the workload in the first 12 months of the facility's operation. Information would include number of pro se filings by persons incarcerated and the amount of time required to respond to these types of filings.

Many filings initiated by incarcerated persons, by their nature, consume much more DA time than other filings. Please see the enclosed comments by Scott Southworth, DA for Juneau County for a good explanation of the difference. Juneau County is host to New Lisbon State Correctional Facility and Sand Ridge sexual predator facility.

We agree with Southworth that because of the significant response time required by such filings, the existing caseload weighting formula needs modification.

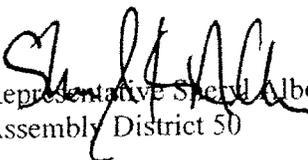
As you know, the last revision to the formula was in 1995. The 1995 audit did not delve into pro se filings. Since 1995, Wisconsin has eliminated its out-of-state prisoner population. This fact creates circumstances quite different from 1995.

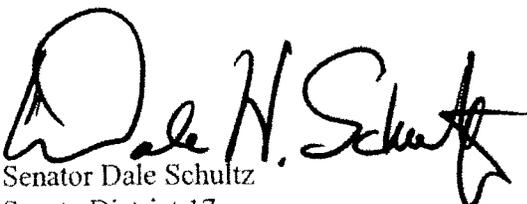
For a letter audit, we recommend you work with the District Attorneys Association, Assistant District Attorneys Association, and Director of State Courts, to obtain data

related to the weighted caseload formula. Please contact either of us with questions about this request.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With kindest regards,

  
Representative Cheryl Albers  
Assembly District 50

  
Senator Dale Schultz  
Senate District 17



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

---

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

**TO:** Senator Carol Roessler, Co-Chair  
Representative Jeskewitz, Co-Chair  
Members of the Joint Committee on Audit

**FROM:** Representative Sheryl Albers  
Senator Dale Schultz

**RE:** Allocation of State Resources for District Attorney Positions

**DATE:** August 29, 2006

---

Thank you Chairs Roessler and Jeskewitz for your prompt consideration of our request for information on the workload for District Attorney offices related to adjudication of court actions involving incarcerated individuals. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in writing and regret we are unable to appear before you in person.

In a recent letter to Janice Mueller, we indicated our desire to adjust the formula that allocates district attorney staff allocations through a 2007-09 Biennial Budget provision. To our knowledge, since 1995, the legislature has not visited this issue.

The current formula considers caseloads but does not take into account the unusual circumstances for counties that host state prisons, correctional facilities and facilities for sexual predators. Many incarcerated defendants do not have an attorney and represent themselves. Evidence presented to us suggests that the number of filings in those counties by unrepresented defendants is greater than in other counties. When prisoners are unrepresented defendants there is additional motion work, and disproportionate amounts of time consumed.

This audit, together with the Legislative Council's Special committee on District Attorney Funding and Administration, will provide the legislature with information useful in determining whether state funding for the State Prosecutors Office in the Department of Administration is distributed.

We are confident that this audit will identify the factors most important to a fair and impartial allocation of funds to the counties to be used in the upcoming budget cycle. Again, we appreciate the Committee's willingness to promptly consider this issue and we respectfully urge members to approve our request.



**Asbjornson, Karen**

---

**From:** Sen. Darling  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2006 4:57 PM  
**To:** Matthews, Pam; Asbjornson, Karen  
**Subject:** Audit request

Honorable Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
8 South, State Capitol

Honorable Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
314 North, State Capitol

Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Jeskewitz:

I am writing to formally request an audit of employee benefits for state elected officials.

The ability of elected officials to accrue and convert unused sick leave for the payment of health insurance not only raises strong concerns about the appropriate use of tax dollars; it is a matter of the public's trust in the people they have chosen to serve their interests.

It is inappropriate for the benefit packages of elected officials to grossly exceed those of the majority of the taxpaying public. As such, I have supported efforts such as the increased contribution toward health care insurance premiums.

Similar to the recent audit on the sick leave system of the University of Wisconsin System, I believe a review should be conducted of the benefits of elected officials with respect to how they compare with the majority of the private sector. While many legislators including myself are eager to address the sick leave issue immediately in the coming session, I believe a thorough review will be helpful in identifying any additional excessive perks that run counter to the notion of the elected official as a public servant and steward of tax dollars.

While I recognize the Audit Committee is completing its requests for 2006, I would ask you to forward this topic for immediate consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you and further discussing this request at your convenience.

Sincerely,

ALBERTA DARLING  
State Senator