



Warren Petryk

State Representative • 93rd Assembly District

Date: May 21, 2013

To: Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

From: Representative Petryk

Re: Testimony on Assembly Bill 136

Good afternoon Chairman Jacque and members of the Committee. I appreciate your time today and allowing me this opportunity to speak in favor of Assembly Bill (AB) 136. This bill was drafted and introduced at the request of Major General Donald Dunbar.

I have with me today Colonel Julio Barron the Legislative Liaison with the Department of Military Affairs. Colonel Barron, along with General Dunbar, was vital in the drafting this legislation and he will assist in answering any questions from the committee.

Assembly Bill 136 will authorize the provinces of Canada, including Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, to participate in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. The bill allows for mutual aid in the event of a natural or man-made disaster between Canada and multiple northern states. Similar legislation is currently being considered by Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Montana, Pennsylvania, and New York, along with the Canadian provinces. Also, Michigan, North Dakota, and Manitoba have already passed this legislation and Minnesota's legislation is currently awaiting a signature from Governor Dayton.

The bill was drafted in response to Congressional legislation that recognizes the need for a mutually supportive emergency aid system through the northern states of the U.S. that border Canada. AB 136 will allow Wisconsin to call upon the previously listed states and provinces for aid when needed.

AB 136 presents an organizational structure that will allow participating members to coordinate training exercises as well as actual emergency response measures. Members of the compact agree to respond to the request for assistance as soon as possible, however, the compact also gives members the broad authority to withhold or withdraw resources in order to protect its own jurisdiction.

Thank you again for your time today and we would be happy to answer questions at this time.