



REPRESENTATIVE JANET BEWLEY

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

Public Hearing – AB 372

February 6, 2014

I would like to thank Rep. Marklein for scheduling a public hearing on AB 372.

AB 372 creates an exemption from the county property tax levy for municipalities on Madeline Island and Washington Island that levy their own taxes for airports, public health or economic development services. The towns must apply to the county board to be exempt from the county property tax levy for the service

The idea for this legislation came from a constituent Pete Clark, who is the Town Administrator for La Pointe on Madeline Island. Madeline Island because of its location faces unique challenges in providing programs and services to residents. This bill will allow the Town of La Pointe to apply to Ashland County to be exempt from the county property tax levy for services if they can demonstrate that their property tax levy is equal to or more than the county's for the same service.

The Senate companion, SB 299 passed the Senate Workforce Development, Forestry, Mining and Revenue Committee unanimously with two amendments. I support the two amendments adopted in the Senate. Senate Amendment 1 is a technical amendment recommended by the Department of Revenue. It changes the effective date of the bill, provides a deadline for applying to the county board, requires the county board to act on the application within 30 days and allows for an appeals process for the towns if the county rejects the application. Senate Amendment 2 narrows the bill to only Madeline Island. At the request of representatives from Washington Island we are removing them from the bill.

Pete Clark is here with me today and can give you specific examples of some of the duplicated expenditures and services between the Town of La Pointe and Ashland County.



74th Assembly District

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