



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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

January 31, 2018

TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs

FR: Representative Dale Kooyenga
Senator Alberta Darling

RE: support for AB 813 – ownership of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts

Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 813. The legislation before you today would repeal a provision in 2015 Wisconsin Act 60, commonly known as the Bucks Arena legislation. The provision would transfer ownership of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts from Milwaukee County to the Wisconsin Center District.

This transfer has yet to take place. Since the adoption of 2015 Wisconsin Act 60 Milwaukee County, the Wisconsin Center District, and the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts are all in agreement that the Center should remain owned and operated by Milwaukee County.

The Marcus Center serves as a gathering place for those looking to enjoy culturally diverse experiences from a wide range of performing arts. The Center is currently attempting to wean itself from government subsidy for operations and capital expenses. However, the uncertainty of future ownership is hindering the Marcus Center's goal of self-sustainability.

Assembly Bill 813 would repeal this requirement and enable the Center to continue working toward financial independence. The Marcus Center has an agreement with Milwaukee County that includes a ten-year operations and capital agreement and a long-term lease agreement. Passage of AB 813 ensures the longevity of the agreements and the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

Thank you for hearing this bill and we respectfully ask for your support.