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**Testimony for Assembly Bill 736
Assembly Committee on Local Government
January 23rd, 2020**

Thank you Chairman Novak and members of the Assembly Committee on Local Government for hearing Assembly Bill 736 related to town zoning in shorelands, the scope of county shoreland zoning ordinances, and authorizing partial county zoning.

This bill was drafted in collaboration with the Wisconsin Towns Association and the Wisconsin Counties Association. It is meant to provide clarification to a 2015 law, Act 41, which related to town zoning authority within a shoreland area. This piece of legislation clarifies existing law and does the following two things:

First, it gives a county and a town a simple addition to their zoning options. Cities and counties can cooperate under current law to adopt a city zoning ordinance. However, it is not clear whether a town and county will agree to enforce a zoning ordinance in only part of a town, instead of the entire town. The bill defines that this procedure is allowed.

Second, the bill brings clarification to the current law on the interaction between the local regulatory authority in shoreland areas and the zoning authority in county shorelands. The provisions of the bill do not alter current law, but provide clarifications that will allow towns and counties to run more effectively and efficiently. This bill will also strengthen the eligibility of farmers for tax credits in shoreland areas that are part of the state's farmland protection program.

If you should have technical questions, there are experts present that can provide helpful insight.

Again, thank you for hearing Senate Bill 662.