



DUEY STROEBEL

STATE SENATOR • 20TH DISTRICT

Testimony on Senate Bill 433

September 25, 2019

Good Morning Chairman Petrowski and committee members. Thank you for scheduling this Public Hearing today and giving us the opportunity to discuss the proposed Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway in Washington and Dodge Counties.

The terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001 were some of the most horrific tragedies to strike the United States in the 21st century. Everyone who can remember that day remembers where they were and what they were doing when they first heard of the attacks. There were at least five victims in the 9/11 attacks who were from Wisconsin. It is crucial that Americans never forget the tragedy of that day and the ongoing impact on families of victims and first responders.

I am joined here today by constituents who have been impacted and have been involved in the creation of the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial and Education Center. The Board of this entity broke ground earlier this year and the final product will do justice to all those deserving remembrance.

SB 433 would designate a stretch of State Highway 28, from its intersection with I-41 in Dodge County to its intersection with State Highway 144 in Washington County, as the "Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway." In addition, this bill seeks to have the DOT place signs along I-41, US Highway 45, and State Highway 28 for the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial, along with identifying its location on highway maps.

Since the rollout of this proposal on the 18th anniversary of 9/11, only two weeks ago, support has been strong from both parties in the Legislature and Governor Evers. I am proud to have a diverse list of cosponsors from all over Wisconsin on the bill. This spring, Wisconsin will graduate from its many high schools the first class of young adults who were primarily born after the events of September 11, 2001. These young people will learn secondhand about these events the same way my generation learned about the attack on Pearl Harbor.

This highway designation, along with the signs, will increase the number of people who experience the memorial. Wisconsinites and those visiting from out of state will have the opportunity to reflect and remember the 9/11 attacks in a serene, respectful location.

Thank you again for holding this hearing and I would be happy to address any questions members may have about this bill.



TIMOTHY RAMTHUN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 59th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

9/25/2019

Testimony on Senate Bill 433, Senate Committee on Transportation, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Chairman Petrowski, Vice-Chairman Marklein, and Members of the Senate Transportation, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee,

Thank you for holding a public hearing today and allowing me to testify in favor of Senate Bill 433, which seeks to designate a portion of State Highway 28 in Washington County as the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway.

This initiative is the culmination of years of blood, sweat, and tears from many people in Kewaskum and Washington County as a whole. Their effort with the memorial, and now the designation of this state highway, will honor those innocent lives lost on September 11th, 2001, the heroic first responders, and those who continue to suffer from that tragic day.

The Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial, located on State Highway 28 in Kewaskum, WI, will be an eternal testament to all the lives lost that day, to the acts of courage by first responders and those at the scenes, and an ever-lasting place for people to remember. That memorial would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts and sacrifices of many individuals; at the local, county, and state levels.

SB433 will designate a portion of State Highway 28 as the 'Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway'. Along with the designation, this bill will allow for signs to be placed which label the highway, along with permanently identifying the memorial's location on state highway maps. A small step for a very profound and enduring impact. This bill will increase awareness of a place where people can learn about and reflect on the September 11th attacks and all those impacted. A place not just for Wisconsin, but for the entire nation as well. As Americans, we must never forget.

Just yesterday, the Assembly companion bill, AB451, received a public hearing and executive session in the Assembly Committee on Transportation, passing unanimously.

Thank you again for holding this hearing on SB433 and allowing me to testify in favor of it. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



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Testimony on Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway

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Thank you Senator Petrowski for hearing this legislation designating part of State Highway 28 as the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway so quickly. The support for this legislation has been overwhelming, especially since the memorial is currently under construction. In addition to creating the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway, the bill literally places the memorial on the map. Washington County leaders believe it is important to forever honor and remember the September 11 Attacks.

Washington County thanks the Habermans for their success in bringing an artifact from the north tower to Washington County. The story of their efforts to ensure remembrance is truly amazing. We are honored to support this board's accomplishments.

In January of 2019, Washington County designated the memorial the official 9/11 memorial in the county. Supervisor Symicek, who is testified in the Assembly yesterday, made the motion on the floor of the county board. This effort began several initiatives from the county to help move this memorial forward.

In May, County Clerk Reichert and County Administrator Schoemann walked 40 miles across Washington County to "Forever Honor our Washington County Veterans." They were joined by their spouses. The walk raised over \$170,000. In addition to creating an endowment to place flags and markers every year at Veteran gravesites, the county board voted to designate \$70,000 of those funds to pay for the Veteran portion of the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial.

The county board fully supports creating the memorial highway. In addition, the towns of Wayne and Farmington have passed resolutions supporting the memorial highway. Wisconsin motorists driving along I-41 will see the signs for the memorial highway. This will ensure motorists remember how life changed and Americans moved forward together following the terrorist attacks.

Thus far, this memorial has largely been a local effort. This bill states that this memorial will be a space of reflection and education for the entire state. In addition to the county's partnership, Moraine Park Technical College has begun working with the Kewaskum Remembers board to create a web application and curriculum to educate visitors on the history of 9/11.

All of the students within Wisconsin schools were born after the attacks on 9/11. Having a place that will educate and preserve the oral history of the attacks is crucial for Washington County and the state of Wisconsin.

This bill is a first step to having a successful opening of the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial. The bill ensures motorists are directed to the memorial and all Wisconsinites have a place to learn about and remember the September 11 terrorist attacks. We are honored to support this legislation and memorial.

Thank you.