



# DAVID STEFFEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

September 15, 2021

Chairman Knodl and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on AB 511 relating to the relocation of the Wisconsin Elections Commission Offices.

The headquarters of the Wisconsin Elections Commission is currently located in downtown Madison. Due to the high cost of leased office space in downtown Madison, the taxpayers have been shouldering a significant and unnecessary financial burden. Furthermore, there is no intrinsic necessity to have these operations within the city of Madison. The WEC serves the entire state and is the only government entity that receives personal visits from state candidates every election cycle. For these reasons, a more geographically central location with a more cost-efficient lease should be pursued.

This bill would relocate the Wisconsin Elections Commission headquarters to a less expensive, more accessible location in Wausau. In addition to being a more geographically central location for the candidates and elected officials who frequent this state commission's services, the savings to the taxpayers are significant. Prime, comparable office space options in Wausau would save the taxpayers of Wisconsin over \$100,000 a year. In a modern, technologically-connected world, we no longer need to maintain all of our state's operations in some of the most expensive office rental space in Wisconsin.

This bill is an important step to provide responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Not only would this relocation save Wisconsin citizens thousands each year, it would also ensure a more functional, practical location for the operations of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and the individuals it serves.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.