



LOREN OLDENBURG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 96th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on Assembly Bill 169

Relating to: membership of the Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council in the Department of Workforce Development

Assembly Committee on Workforce Development and Economics Opportunities

October 24th, 2023

Good afternoon Chairman Petryk and committee members. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Assembly Bill 169.

The Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council's main function is to:

1. Increase the hiring and retention of qualified employees in industries related to agriculture, food, and natural resources.
2. Promote the coordination of educational systems to develop employees for current and future careers in agricultural fields
3. Develop support mechanisms for employment in these fields
4. Recommend policy that can improve the educational development of agricultural education

In addition, the Council provides advice and assistance to state agencies, educational institutions, and the Wisconsin Legislature on matters related to agricultural education and workforce development. Council membership includes state agency leaders from DWD, DACTP, DPI, WEDC, DNR, UW-System, WTCS, and the UW-Madison Extension.

Changes to UW-System's restructuring in June of 2018 created an inconsistency in member titles on this council. AB 169 provides a simple remedy for council membership; changing the Chancellor of the UW-Extension seat to the Dean of the UW-Madison division of extension, the former Chancellors new title. WAEWD council's duties are also listed in statute and the old title is written into a few of these. The amendment simply makes the same title change to these statutes too.

This change would put WAEWD council members in line with the positions reflecting the UW-system restructuring without changing council membership. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of AB 169.



HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

October 24, 2023

**Assembly Committee on Workforce Development and
Economic Opportunities
Testimony on Assembly Bill 169**

Good Afternoon!

Thank you Chair Petryk and committee members for hearing Assembly Bill 169 (AB 169), that updates the statute regarding the Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council (WAEWDC).

AB 169 is not changing the membership of the WAEWDC, rather it is updating the statute to reflect the change in title for one of the current members.

The University of Wisconsin Extension became the University of Wisconsin-Madison division of extension after the restructuring approved by the Higher Learning Commission in June 2018.

The WAEWDC is to make recommendations in its Annual Report, including those related to the Council's structure.

Wis. Stats. s. 15.227(15)(a)7 describes the membership on the council for Extension and reads:

The chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Extension or his or her designee.

After the restructuring that individual's title is the dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison division of extension.

Given the structure change at Extension, AB 169 would update the WAEWDC statute to reflect the current organizational structure.

Assembly Amendment 1 was drafted after it was discovered that the statute that describes the duties of the WAEWDC also contained the same outdated title.

Thank you again for hearing AB 169 and your timely action on the bill.