

FRANCESCA HONG

State Representative • 76th Assembly District

September 27th, 2023

Hello Members of the Committee,

Thank you so much for bringing this bill to a public hearing. I, like many of you, have so much appreciation for the Wisconsin Blue Book. As a legislator, it is an honor to not only be featured in them, but also a privilege to have such ready access to the most comprehensive source of information on the State of Wisconsin there is (**Rich Champagne**). From the local level, to our legislature, and across our state agencies, the Blue Book is a wonderful introduction to Wisconsin government and is an integral part of our legislative tradition.

There's no doubt of the Blue Book's and our highway map's importance, and so our intention with this legislation is not to be reductive in any way of their merits or make an approximation of their worth. What we want is to introduce a common sense and necessary update to the processes that govern their distribution in our legislature.

As we all know, our districts here in Wisconsin are unique, and our constituencies' requests are as varied as our townships, our villages, our cities and our counties. What one office receives in requests for Blue Books and highway maps differs from another's, and so it is important to assess whether or not our current allotment structure is responsive to each of our office's needs. Especially after so many of our systems have changed following the pandemic, no more than ever, we have to consider what we can do to better our legislative services here in the Capitol.

SB138 would allow for flexibility for each legislative office to order at their discretion the number of Blue Books and highway maps that best aligns with what has been historically requested in their district. This sort of agency will not only decrease waste but will ensure that we are increasing flexibility and maintaining accessibility all the while protecting the integrity of these two resources.

This legislation ultimately makes us better stewards of taxpayer money by decreasing the costs associated with the distribution of Blue Books (**FE**). Additionally, any reduction in highway maps requested by legislative offices would increase the number of maps available to the public at rest areas, welcome centers, and other public locations (**FE**).

Tradition, as the saying goes, is a guide and not a jailer. So today, we have the opportunity to build on the success of these legislative traditions and guarantee their sustainability for years to come without eliminating or abridging any of their goodness. I hope you'll join us in supporting this effort to better our distribution processes as they relate to Blue Books and Highway maps. And we of course, welcome your questions on SB138.

In service,



Representative Francesca Hong

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