



PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: September 27, 2023

RE: **Testimony on 2023 Senate Bill 85**

TO: The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government

FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

Thank you Chairman Tomczyk and members of the committee for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 85 (SB 85).

For nearly fifty years, Wisconsin has recognized lake districts. These are special purpose units of government whose focus is on maintaining, protecting, and improving the environmental and recreational quality of a lake. Currently, there are 220 lake districts in Wisconsin, and they are required to notify their membership of meetings either in writing via mail or with a class 2 notice (defined in chap. 985). This bill would create a third option – e-mail.

My office drafted this bill after hearing from the chairpersons of two different lake districts in Central Wisconsin. Allowing them to utilize modern technology would save time and energy that could be better spent carrying out the core mission of these districts.

Please join me and the Wisconsin Realtors Association and support this bill.

September 18, 2023

To: Members, Senate Committee on Transportation
Re: Senate Bill 85

I had planned to attend your hearing in person today as I feel very strongly that this change to Section 33 must be made. However, due to unforeseen circumstances I am unable to do so.

Approximately a year ago it was brought to my attention that Section 33 of the Wisconsin State Statutes states that the Annual Meeting Notice for Lake Districts must be "mailed" to members of a District. I was very surprised when I was informed that this meant the email could NOT be used. Today's society is heavily dependent on the use of electronic communications.

The Silver Lake Management District recently held its Annual meeting and provided, via "snail mail", the notification of the meeting to all members of the District. The cost to provide the necessary information to 300+ members was over \$500. This included printing, stamps, envelopes, and labels but not labor to assemble and mail.

If we could have used email, our costs would have been less than \$100 as we have email addresses for over 80% of our members. We do use email for a variety of other informational communications.

This is a classic example of why SB85 needs to be passed. It is a waste to require Lake Districts to spend money this way when using email is easier and cheaper. This money should be used for costs related to the lake that we serve, like paying for DNR permits.

Please support this bill so that we can avoid these costs going forward!

Sincerely,
Ed Kissinger, Chairman
Silver Lake Management District
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