



To: Members of the Legislative Council Special Committee on Municipal Annexation

From: Brian W. Ohm, Chair, State-Local Government-Private Sector Working Group & Associate Professor, Department of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension

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This testimony is presented in my capacity as Chair of the State-Local Government-Private Sector Working Group of the Wisconsin Land Council. The State-Local Government-Private Sector Working Group was established in 2000 pursuant to section 16.023(1)(L)1 of the Wisconsin Statutes to study and advise the Wisconsin Land Council on land use issues. The members of the State-Local Government-Private Sector Working Group included State Agency representatives, representatives of the University of Wisconsin, tribal government, city, town, and county representatives, professional planners, and private interests representing environmental concerns, realtors, builders, farmers, and transportation builders. Both the Wisconsin Land Council and the State-Local Government-Private Sector Working group were housed in the Department of Administration.

The State-Local Government-Private Sector Working Group discussed several issues that are relevant for consideration by the Senate Select Committee on State-Local Relations. The diverse membership of the Working Group agreed to the following technical changes to Wisconsin Statutes:

- 1) improving the technical mapping standards for annexations so that they meet the minimum standards for property surveys (Chapter A-E 7, Wis. Adm. Code);
- 2) linking and adding references in the annexation statute to section 802.12 of the Wisconsin Statutes (Wisconsin's mediation statute).

While seemingly minor, the first change would help reduce costs for local governments, property owners, and developers associated with the confusion when the property descriptions for annexed land are not accurate. The second change would help promote alternative dispute resolution as a way to reduce costs associated with legal challenges to annexation battles.

Should you have any questions about the work of the State-Local Government-Private Sector Working Group, please do not hesitate to contact me at 262-2098.