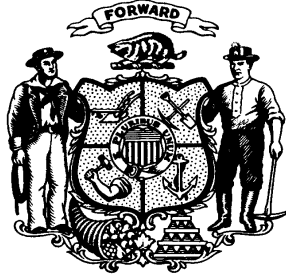


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December 26, 2006

Johnnie Smith
Administrator, Wisconsin Emergency Management
2400 Wright St.
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Johnnie:

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the of Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning. At its December 13 meeting, the committee made two recommendations regarding your agency and requested that I forward them to you for your consideration.

First, the committee recommends that the Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) regional directors be members of and regularly attend meetings of other regional entities involved in emergency management, including those relating to hospitals and public health. While acknowledging the additional demands this places on regional directors, the committee strongly believes that this institutionalized interaction will result in more efficient regional planning and more effective, coordinated response in the event of an emergency.

On a related note, for the January meeting, the committee has asked the Department of Health and Family Services to provide maps showing the various regions into which the state is divided and to comment on the desirability of making those regions more uniform. You may wish to comment on that suggestion as well.

Second, the committee recommends that WEM provide scenario planning for smaller communities that may receive an influx of persons as a result of evacuations into those communities from more heavily populated areas.

Could you please provide a written response to committee staff on both of these recommendations in advance of the January 10 meeting and be prepared to discuss them at the meeting. I very much appreciate your continuing assistance to the committee. Please feel free to call any of the Legislative Council attorneys working with the committee if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Representative Joan Ballweg, Chair
Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness
Planning

JB:wu

cc: Randi Wind Milsap