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January 30, 2007

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster
Department of Public Instruction
125 S. Webster St., 5th floor
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Superintendent Burmaster:

I am writing in my capacity as chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning. At its January 10, 2007 meeting, the committee discussed the importance of conducting tornado drills in schools and distributing information to families of school children about the dangers posed by tornadoes. As you know, several Wisconsin schools have sustained tornado damage in recent years.

At its February 14, 2007 meeting, the committee will be considering draft legislation to require schools to conduct tornado drills in addition to the currently required fire and evacuation drills under s. 118.07 (2), Stats. In conjunction with the draft legislation, the committee asked that I write you to encourage DPI to work cooperatively with Wisconsin Emergency Management to devise a system for electronically disseminating tornado awareness materials to the families of school children during Tornado Awareness Week.

I look forward to hearing from you about DPI's efforts in this regard. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this request.

Sincerely,

Representative Joan Ballweg, Chair
Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning

cc: Johnnie Smith
Randi W. Milsap