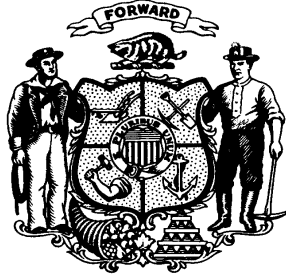


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**TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENHANCING
RECREATIONAL TRAILS FOR NON-MOTORIZED USE**

FROM: Senator Jim Sullivan, Chairperson

DATE: January 6, 2009

Enclosed are the two bill drafts creating: (1) a nonmotorized recreation and transportation trails council; and (2) a nonmotorized trail maintenance funding program. Special Committee members thoroughly discussed these issues during the December 5, 2008 meeting and, in my view, reached a consensus on most of the issues. Ordinarily, as committee chair, my next step would be to direct the staff to prepare final drafts and send them to members for review and a final vote by mail ballot.

However, because the draft creating the council has been put into draft form for the first time, and the maintenance funding draft has been substantially revised, I am taking an extra step in the approval process to ensure committee consensus. Please review the drafts and return your comments, if any, to the committee staff. Your review should focus on whether the drafts reflect the discussions and changes requested during the meeting, that there are no errors in the text, and that the drafts are ready for a vote. I will review your comments and will direct staff to make any final changes and to send the drafts for approval (or disapproval) by mail ballot if the committee is close to consensus on all key points in the drafts.

I will consider another meeting only if the bill drafts, as amended following the committee response to this mailing, raise serious concerns that might be resolved at another meeting, or if there is a strong interest among a sufficient number of committee members to have another meeting. I expect that this process will eliminate the need for another meeting and move us toward a consensus working product. Time will be of the essence in moving legislation on the committee proposal. Given the inherent challenges in dramatically changing our transportation funding balance, I urge you not to let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

[The bill draft relating to trespass on public lands (WLC: 0243/1) was voted on and approved, as amended by the committee, at the December 5, 2008 meeting. There will be no further action on this draft at our committee level. This proposal will now be sent to the Joint Legislative Council. Once passed by the Council, the draft may be introduced as legislation.]

The Joint Legislative Council is likely to have its next meeting in late January or early February 2009. If the Special Committee's work is completed in time, the committee should be able to make its report to the Council at this meeting. It is important that we complete our work soon so that our proposals can be considered in the biennial budget. To meet this time frame, please review the drafts promptly and return your comments to my office or to the committee staff **no later than noon on Monday, January 12, 2009**.

Thank you for helping to complete the work of the committee in a timely manner.

JS:jb;ksm

Enclosures