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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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*Terry C. Anderson, Director*  
*Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director*

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

FROM: Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair

RE: Topics for Committee Study

DATE: November 30, 2012

Thank you all for your contributions to the work of the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations over the last six months. We have had a productive period, and I have enjoyed working with everyone on the committee as we have discussed and studied solutions to a number of issues of concern to the tribes in this state.

At our last meeting, the committee voted to recommend that the Joint Legislative Council introduce bills on three of these issues in the 2013 Legislative Session: tribal participation in the intoxicated driver program; the off-reservation transportation of game taken on Indian land; and tribal participation in the local government property insurance fund. With bill drafts advanced to the Joint Legislative Council, the committee has completed its work on these topics. However, the committee's work need not end here and I know that there are still areas in which the committee can continue to be productive.

For that reason, I am writing to ask for your input regarding the committee's work in the coming months. As you know, the committee is directed to study issues related to American Indians and American Indian tribes and bands in this state and to develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals to address those issues. Topics for committee study may include issues that were raised earlier this year, or new issues of concern to tribes or to American Indians in this state.

For your reference, I have compiled a list of topics that were raised this year but not yet addressed. These issues include:

- Authorizing tribal law enforcement officers to participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System.
- Funding for out-of-home child placements ordered by tribal courts (161 agreements).
- Tribal representation on regional planning commissions.

- Employment tax credits for non-Indian businesses that hire Indians living on or near reservations.
- Ways to improve utilization of federal tax provisions relating to accelerated depreciation for non-Indian manufacturers in Indian country.
- Improving the unemployment insurance system for Native Americans.
- Workforce training for Native Americans.

I would like to schedule the committee's next meeting for some time in January. So that we can assemble an agenda for the meeting, ***I am asking you to contact me with your suggestions for what the committee should study by December 21, 2012.*** You may contact me by telephone at 608-266-3780; email at [Rep.Mursau@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Rep.Mursau@legis.state.wi.us); or mail at Representative Jeffrey Mursau, P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708. I will review the suggestions, select one or more issues, and ask committee staff to prepare background information for the committee's next meeting.

As you consider what suggestions to make, please keep in mind that the committee is best suited to address issues that have potential legislative solutions. Most often, as with the bill drafts we recently advanced relating to the intoxicated driver program and the off-reservation transport of game, study topics are selected based on specific problems faced by one or more tribes.

As always, feel free to contact me at any time. You may also always feel free to contact the Legislative Council staff assigned to the committee: David L. Lovell, Senior Analyst, at 608-266-1537, and David Moore, Staff Attorney, at 608-266-1946.

JM:jal