



September 14, 2022

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Carl Clementi. I am the Chair of the Wisconsin Real Estate Appraisers (REA) Board. On behalf of the REA Board, I write to you as members of the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses.

The REA Board is aware of the severely low staffing levels at the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). As the Chair of the Board, I would like to convey to you that the REA Board passed a two-part motion at our June 8 meeting regarding the resource deficit at DSPS, as follows:

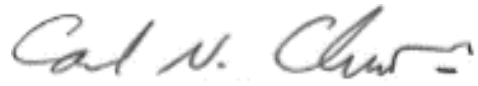
*... to express concern to the Legislature and Joint Finance Committee that its ongoing restrictions on the Department of Safety and Professional Services' (DSPS) ability to add staff and spending authority have created backlogs in licensing timelines that have in turn created unnecessary delays in real estate appraisers being licensed in a timely manner. This has resulted in delays in real estate appraisers' ability to enter the workforce, serve clients, and earn a living. Staffing levels at DSPS are simply not adequate to manage the increasing volume of license applications. The number of complaints about the slow pace of licensing has increased significantly due to the staff and spending authority restrictions.*

*The Real Estate Appraisers Board urges the legislature to take immediate action to increase staffing and spending authority of DSPS and to immediately discontinue its practice of diverting real estate appraiser license fee program revenue for other purposes.*

I understand that the Study Committee will make recommendations in its report at the conclusion of its reviews. I respectfully request that the Committee include our motion in the report and include in its recommendations the actions put forward in our motion. We will also write to the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC), as the principal legislative committee charged with the review of all state appropriations and revenues, to ask that the Committee take action to increase the Department's position allocation and spending authority as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Committee for your interest in occupational licensing and for all efforts toward improving the credentialing process in Wisconsin. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carl N. Clementi". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Carl Clementi (On behalf of the Board)  
Chairperson, Wisconsin Real Estate Appraisers Board