

May 6, 2008

TO: Wisconsin Legislators

RE: Transportation Provisions of Budget Repair Bill

The Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association (WMCA) encourages members of the legislature to support the transportation provisions of the bi-partisan Budget Repair agreement negotiated by legislative leadership. Stopping the raids of the Transportation Fund is a critical issue to our 1,200 members.

The WMCA is convinced that maintaining the integrity of the Transportation Fund is the key to a solid transportation system in this state. We believe that strong measures (including a constitutional amendment) should be in place to prohibit the use of money from the Transportation Fund for non-transportation purposes.

When heavy vehicle registration fees were increased by 30% (an increase of \$600 for an 80,000 pound combination) last fall, it was anticipated that the funds would be used for improvements in the highways and bridges in Wisconsin. To use those funds for non-transportation purposes would further erode the long-established concept of a "user fee".

Highway user fees paid by the trucking industry in Wisconsin are very high. With the 30% increase in truck registration fees, Wisconsin now ranks in the top ten in the country for both fuel tax and registration fees paid by truckers. A typical tractor semi-trailer combination in Wisconsin now pays \$6,627 per year in state highway user fees, compared with the national average of \$5,009.

The problem is not low user fees; the problem is that the funds are not being used for transportation purposes.

We urge you to support the transportation provisions of the Budget Repair Bill, which will begin restoring the integrity of the Transportation Fund.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Howells  
President