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Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Dear Senator Alberta Darling, Representative John Nygren
and members of the Joint Committee on Finance:

We the undersigned leaders of Southeastern Wisconsin Cities and Villages urge you to seriously consider and address the delays that will result and the economic harm that will be done to Wisconsin's economy by putting off needed improvements to the interstate highway system in Southeast Wisconsin. While we sincerely appreciate the recent statements of support for additional general transportation aid to local governments, we believe the time has come for a systemic and sustainable solution to our transportation needs.

Wisconsin's economy is interdependent. Wood products from Marinette County rely on Milwaukee's harbors for transportation. Harley Davidson is a Milwaukee company whose motorcycles are designed in Wauwatosa, while engines are built in Menomonee Falls and body materials crafted in Tomahawk. And there are many more examples. Wisconsin has a uniquely-dispersed population that is a wonderful result of our dairy and timber heritages. Our economy reflects our population; the state works best when it functions as a whole system. A modern, interconnected transportation system is critical to serve a dispersed state economy.

We recognize that the state has invested tremendous resources in the large projects necessary to rebuild the Marquette and Zoo Interchanges. We are grateful to all the taxpayers of the state for their commitment to these vital modernization efforts. But we cannot curtail other important projects, including the Interstate 94 corridor to Chicago. Not because doing so will hurt the Southeast, although it will, but because delaying these corridor projects represents a setback for the whole state.

As elected officials we too understand our duty to be good stewards of public resources. Raising revenues is not our first priority. However, there are times when it is more conservative and cost-effective to spend money now, rather than pay more for the same work in the future.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering our point of view.

This letter is signed and sent on behalf of the attached list of local government leaders.

Cc: Governor Scott Walker

YOUR VOICE. YOUR WISCONSIN.



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**Signatories on January 11, 2017 League Letter
to the Joint Committee on Finance**

Mayor Dan Abendroth, City of Mequon
President Mike Aimone, Village of Union Grove
Mayor Erik Brooks, City of South Milwaukee
Mayor Dan Devine, City of West Allis
Mayor John Dickert, City of Racine
President Samuel Dickman, Village of Bayside
Mayor Kathy Ehley, City of Wauwatosa
President Ronald G. Hayward, Village of West Milwaukee
President Joseph Helm, Village of Menomonee Falls
Mayor John Hohenfeldt, City of Cudahy
President Guy Johnson, Village of Shorewood
Mayor Bryan Kennedy, Ph.D, City of Glendale
President Carl Krueger, Village of Brown Deer
President Patrick Kenny, Village of Fontana
Mayor Alan Kupsik, City of Lake Geneva
President John P. Marra, Village of Williams Bay
President Roger Mellem, Village of North Bay
Mayor Steven V. Ponto, City of Brookfield
Mayor Shawn Reilly, City of Waukesha
President Ron Reinowski, Village of Merton
President Tom Roanhouse, Village of Waterford
President Mark A. Ruosch, Village of Sharon
Mayor Steve Scaffidi, City of Oak Creek
President Julie Siegel, Village of Whitefish Bay
President Ellis Steiner, Village of Elmwood Park
President George Stoner, Village of Somers
President Randy Timms, Village of East Troy
President Mike West, Village of Fox Point