



MILWAUKEE DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly and the Wisconsin State Senate

March 13, 2018

Scott Walker
Governor of Wisconsin
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

The undersigned members of the Wisconsin State Legislature's Milwaukee Delegation request that you maximize the number of eligible City of Milwaukee census tracts contained within the State's application for the new Federal Opportunity Zones Program. It is our understanding that, under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), a significant new economic development tool known as a "qualified opportunity zone" was created to provide investors the chance to put money into rebuilding the nation's left-behind communities. Nearly 35 percent of all opportunity eligible tracts in Wisconsin are in the City of Milwaukee. We believe that while our city represents a significant number of the highly distressed census tracts, it also presents the largest investment opportunities that coincide with the provisions of the Opportunity Zone designation.

As the Opportunity Zones initiative is intended to generate additional long-term investment in areas that most need redevelopment and business growth, we believe it is critical for the State's application to emphasize areas of Wisconsin that have a high probability of attracting projects that meet the criteria of Opportunity Funds. The City of Milwaukee is a likely site of many such projects. Qualified commercial property, businesses, and projects may use this new incentive as a low-cost subsidy for growth. This new legislative program has garnered little attention, but can be a useful tool in capital gains deferral, particularly for individuals, funds, and companies considering investments in low-income communities.

With 165 eligible tracts in the City of Milwaukee, significant amounts of investment already occurring, and the largest workforce in the State of Wisconsin, the designation of significant numbers of these tracts as Opportunity Zones would well position the city and State to garner much needed investment and foster continued growth.

If you would like to speak about this in more detail, please don't hesitate to contact our offices.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



MILWAUKEE DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly and the Wisconsin State Senate

Sincerely,

Representative David Crowley
Chair of the Milwaukee Delegation

Representative JoCasta Zamarripa
Assembly District 8

Senator Lena Taylor
Senate District 4

Representative Evan Goyke
Assembly District 18

Representative Fred Kessler
Assembly District 12

Senator LaTonya Johnson
Senate District 6

Senator Tim Carpenter
Senate District 3

Representative Josh Zepnick
Assembly District 9

Senator Chris Larson
Senate District 7

Representative Christine Sinicki
Assembly District 20



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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leon Young".

Representative Leon Young
Assembly District 16

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason M. Fields".

Representative Jason Fields
Assembly District 11