



Mike
HUEBSCH
ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

September 25, 2007

Hand Delivered

Thomas Nelson
State Representative
Wisconsin State Assembly
Room 5 North, State Capitol

Dear Representative Nelson,

Thank you for reiterating your support for 2007 Assembly Bill 506 -- the bipartisan school and municipal aid proposal. While the Assembly's action was a significant first step in protecting Wisconsin property taxpayers, we must now turn our attention to the state Senate and encourage our colleagues to take action on this critical funding proposal this week.

According to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Elizabeth Burmaster, if there is no budget agreement by this Friday, the Department of Public Instruction may be forced to use last year's budgeted figures, which will result in no statewide increase in general equalization aid for 2007-08. This means tens of millions of dollars less in state aid will be going to schools, resulting in a \$600 million property tax increase this fall --- approximately \$200 on the average home according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

I appreciate your recognition of my decision to bring AB 506 to the Assembly floor as a good faith effort to fund our commitments and stop a \$600 million property tax increase. I am hopeful state Senate leaders will soon realize that AB 506 represents meaningful progress in our budget negotiations and take action before the week is out to put the needs of our families ahead of the wants of state government.

I remain committed to completing the next state budget even after the Senate acts to fund our schools and local governments and prevent this property tax increase. I have worked with Senate leaders throughout the summer and will continue these efforts on every remaining area of the budget. However, if negotiations are not completed by Friday because the two houses have not resolved our differences on tax increases proposed by the governor and Senate Democrats, Wisconsin families should not be forced to pay the \$600 million price.

-More-

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I urge you to appeal to Senate Majority Leader Robson, Senate members of the conference committee and your own Senator to protect our school children and property taxpayers by passing AB 506 this week. All fifteen Republican Senators have pledged their support for the funding proposal and are prepared to vote on the bill before the Friday deadline. AB 506 will have sufficient votes to pass if it is brought to the Senate floor.

Thank you again for your letter, and I look forward to working with you throughout this session.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike", written in a cursive style.

Mike Huebsch
Assembly Speaker