



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

September 28, 2007

Elizabeth Burmaster  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
125 South Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7841  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Superintendent Burmaster:

With the Department of Public Instruction certification process set to begin at the end of the day, the conference committee has not yet reconciled a complete state budget. We are concerned about statements that you may begin the certification process today and use an amount of state general equalization aid less than any of the proposals made by the Governor, Senate, Joint Finance Committee and Assembly.

According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, several news reports, and your office, basing the state aid formula on last year's funding levels will shortchange our school districts substantial state aid dollars and cause property tax increases.

Last week, the Assembly voted in favor of AB506 which would fund our schools and local governments at a level similar to that proposed by the Governor, Senate and Joint Finance Committee. Several Democrats voted for the Republican-authored bill because the K12 funding reflected that of the Governor, Joint Finance Committee and Senate.

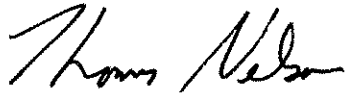
Should the conference committee not reconcile the budget today, we request that for the purposes of the certification process that you not use the 2006-07 base year funding level (\$4.722 billion) but instead the funding level that the Assembly, Senate and Governor have all already agreed to (\$4.878 billion).

The conference committee has not passed a budget and many budgetary items remain unresolved. However, K12 education funding has largely been resolved.

Why begin the certification process with a funding level that is less than the agreed upon figure proposed by the legislature and Governor? Why tell school districts that they will have to raise property taxes? To date, the Governor and legislature have bargained in good faith and we have no reason to think they would back away from their proposals.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas Nelson  
State Representative  
5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



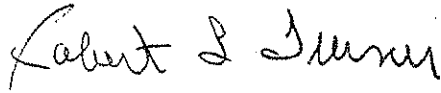
Louis Molepske, Jr.  
State Representative  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



Tony Staskunas  
State Representative  
15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Josh Zepnick  
State Representative  
9<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



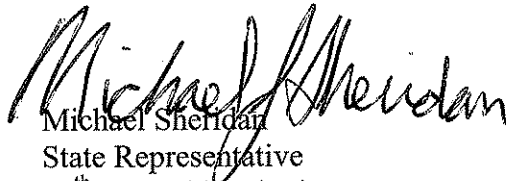
Robert Turner  
State Representative  
61<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



Gordon Hintz  
State Representative  
54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Terese Berceau  
State Representative  
76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Michael Sheridan  
State Representative  
44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Mary Hubler  
State Representative  
75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Tamara Grigsby  
State Representative  
18<sup>th</sup> Assembly District