

JFC approves withdrawal from Trump-era border wall lawsuit over National Guard funds

Posted on Wednesday, Jul 26, 2023

The Joint Finance Committee has allowed Wisconsin to withdraw itself from a lawsuit against the federal government over the Trump administration's reallocation of \$8 million in National Guard funding for a southern border wall.

JFC members wrapped the less than 3-minute session Tuesday with a unanimous vote, making Wisconsin the last state to withdraw from the lawsuit. Former President Donald Trump in 2019 declared a national emergency at the border, allowing his administration to divert up to \$6.7 billion nationwide originally appropriated to state National Guard units, military projects and law enforcement.

Wisconsin's National Guard saw \$8 million originally slated for a small arms training facility at Madison's Truax Airfield taken away.

The Biden administration in 2021 announced the Guard would get back \$10.5 million, likely to account for updated project designs, after the Department of Defense started canceling all border wall projects funded by diverted money.

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Wisconsin National Guard spokesman Capt. Keith Peter told WisPolitics the contract bid, solicitation and award for the project were completed in the fall of last year.