



ROBIN J. VOS

SPEAKER OF THE WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

October 14, 2019

Governor Tony Evers
Wisconsin State Capitol, 115 East
Madison, Wisconsin 53708
HAND DELIVERED

Dear Governor Evers,

As a state-elected official, I understand that engagement with the federal government can have a tremendous impact on our budgets, policies, and overall goals. Having a seat at the table during these important discussions is something we as a state should actively strive for.

The Wisconsin Federal-State Relations Office in Washington, D.C. was created for the purpose of "promoting federal-state cooperation." This is an important objective, and one that I hope your administration would want the legislature to also be involved in.

The Wisconsin Federal-State Relations Office in its first quarterly report specified that as your administration took shape, the staffing of the Washington, D.C. office was a top priority to ensure the governor and the state were represented at the federal level. However, it unfortunately does not appear that following the law was as equally high of a priority in this regard. It is our understanding that the Federal-State Relations Office has been staffed since January, yet your administration has not received concurrence from the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization, as is required by s. 16.548, Wis. Stats. Neither has your administration approached the committee to inform us of or discuss the hiring of the office director, as Governor Walker's office had when hiring the previous director who took the time to meet with the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization in-person prior to requesting concurrence.

We appreciate the goals of the office and hope the director and your administration would make it a priority to bring powers and responsibility back to our state, rather than advocate for further entanglement and reliance upon the federal government.

I look forward to hearing from you on the status of the office and your plans to ensure concurrence by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin J. Vos", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Robin J. Vos
Assembly Speaker

cc: Secretary Joel Brennan, Department of Administration