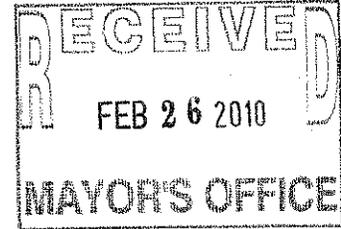


MICHAEL G. ELLIS
STATE SENATOR



Wisconsin State Senate

19TH SENATE DISTRICT



February 23, 2010

Kristin Sewall, Deputy City Clerk
City of Menasha
140 Main Street
Menasha, WI 54952

Dear Kristin,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your resolution in support of legislation that would repeal the so-called maintenance-of-effort provision in state law that prohibits local governments from reducing expenditures for protective services.

I agree completely with the Common Council in opposing this provision that was slipped into the budget with no public notice and little or no opportunity for debate. As I noted in a column in the Appleton Post Crescent, this is another instance of the state interfering with the ability of local governments to control their own budgets.

Although this was touted as a means to ensure public safety in tough economic times, the fact is that I trust local mayors and council members to understand and protect the safety needs of their own communities much more than I trust some bureaucrat in Madison. This law will stifle innovation and modernization in managing budgets, which is contrary to the job you were elected to do.

The fact is, the state's budget is a train wreck and Madison politicians should put their efforts into cleaning up their own house before they fiddle with your local budgets. The last thing we need is to force Madison-style budgeting on the City of Menasha.

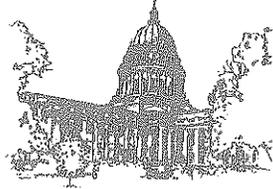
Thanks again for sending this resolution. You can count on my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Ellis".

MICHAEL G. ELLIS
State Senator



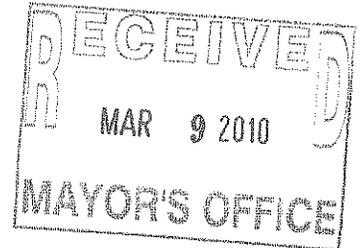


DEAN R. KAUFERT

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

February 26, 2010

Kristin Sewall, Deputy Clerk
City of Menasha
140 Main St.
Menasha, WI 54952



Dear Kristin,

Thank you for forwarding to me a copy of the resolution passed by the Menasha Common Council in support of passage of AB 661.

I appreciated hearing the Council's support for AB 661 and was happy to attend the Council meeting recently to discuss this proposal in greater depth. I have signed onto this bill as a co-sponsor. It was introduced and referred to the Assembly Urban & Local Affairs Committee. I have also talked with the chairwoman of the committee, Rep. Terese Berceau, to request that she schedule a public hearing on this bill.

Thank you for the information provided by the Council on this issue. I know that the City is working hard to meet the fiscal challenges we are all facing. Hearing of initiatives on the state level that can assist in these efforts is helpful and I will continue to do all I can to help.

Sincerely,

Dean Kaufert
State Representative
55th Assembly District