

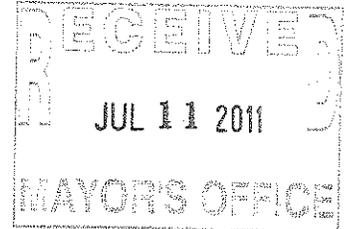


Michael G. Ellis
SENATE PRESIDENT

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

July 5, 2011

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



Dear Kristin,

Thank you for recently forwarding to my office two City Council resolutions related to provisions in the state budget, specifically, the state's recycling grant program and the permitted use of public employees for certain public works projects.

As you know, in his budget Governor Walker had proposed a significant reallocation of recycling-related fees, including recycling tipping fees. The Governor had also proposed to repeal the municipal and county recycling grant program. I did not support this proposal and worked with other legislators to retain the current programs. In the end, the recycling tipping fee, the electronic waste recycling fee and the newspaper recycling fee were all retained and the funds generated will remain part of the recycling and renewable energy fund, which will be renamed the environmental fund. In addition the municipal and county recycling grant program was restored and funded at \$19 million annually.

The Joint Committee on Finance had included a provision in the budget that would have prohibited cities, villages, towns and counties from using their own employees on public construction projects and other provisions that would have severely limited counties from using their own road crews in conjunction with projects for neighboring cities, towns and villages. I also opposed these proposals and worked to modify them before final passage of the budget.

In the end, the prohibition against cities, towns, villages and counties from using their own workers on public works projects costing more than \$100,000 was deleted. The other provisions were amended to allow counties to use their own workers on road projects for towns within the boundaries of the county and for villages and cities under 5,000 population and within the boundaries of the county.

Thanks again for forwarding the resolutions.

Sincerely,

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

MICHAEL G. ELLIS
State Senator