

To: WMC Transportation Committee
From: Jason Culotta, Director of Tax and Transportation Policy
Date: April 5, 2012

Spring Session Update

Civil Justice Reform

- Punitive and Compensatory Damages for Employment Discrimination (SB 202)

HR Reforms

- Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council package (Act 198)
- UI Trailer bill (SB 417)
- Workers Compensation Advisory Council package (Act 183)

Regulatory Reform Package

- Chapter 30 Permit Reform (Act 167)
- Comprehensive Wetland Reform (Act 118)
- Limits on Development Moratoria (Act 144)

Worker Training

- Vocational Education Diploma (Act 156)

Tax Reform

- Manufacturing Tax Credit Revisions (AB 638)

State Budget Update

- Budget now short during current biennium:
 - \$11 million balance for 2011-12
 - Shortfall of \$143 million projected for 2012-13
- Softer growth in individual income, sales, and corporate income
- Re-financing savings of \$63 million since budget enacted in June 2011
 - More re-financing savings expected
 - Additional lapses can be made to help balance the General Fund

Transportation Fund Integrity

- Constitutional Amendment approved on first consideration on May 17th
 - Senate passed 26-6, Assembly 82-11
- Must be considered again in 2013 legislative session.
- Discussions underway on when to bring the issue to the Legislature in 2013.

Recall Election Update

- Election Dates Set:
 - May 8th primary election
 - June 5th general election
- Gubernatorial Field Grows to Four Democrats (plus one “fake” one)
 - Former Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk
 - State Senator Kathleen Vinehout
 - Secretary of State Doug La Follette
 - Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett
 - Gladys Huber
- Lt. Gov. Recall Field
 - Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin President Mahlon Mitchell
 - Former Marinette County Board Supervisor Bruce Berman
 - Isaac Weix
- State Senate
 - 13th District
 - Senator Scott Fitzgerald
 - Lori Compas
 - Gary Ellerman
 - 21st District
 - Senator Van Wanggaard
 - Former Senator John Lehman
 - Tamra Varebrook
 - 23rd District
 - Senator Terry Moulton
 - Former State Representative Kristen Dexter
 - James Engel
 - 29th District (Senator Pam Galloway resigned on March 17th)
 - State Representative Jerry Petrowski
 - State Representative Donna Seidel
 - James Buckley

Update on U.S. Senate Race

- WMC Candidate Forum
 - May 3rd at the Milwaukee Athletic Club, 7-9 a.m.
 - All five GOP candidates attending
 - Former Governor Tommy Thompson (invited)
 - Former Congressman Mark Neuman
 - Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald
 - Investment banker Eric Hovde
 - Kip Smith