

Governor Jim Doyle  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

February 20, 2008

Dear Governor Doyle,

As groups representing hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin taxpayers—families with children, workers, students, seniors, persons with disabilities and local community officials—we applaud and support your call to protect the broad network of services crucial to our constituents by securing sufficient state revenue to minimize budget cuts. As the state faces a possible \$650 million recessionary budget shortfall, some political leaders have reacted with a mindless call for across-the-board reductions in state and local programs. You have shown foresight and constructive leadership by calling for actions that maintain state revenue.

At this critical time in the state's effort to rebuild a strong economy, we cannot afford to go backward in education, transportation, health care, public safety, support services for children, the elderly and people with disabilities or other quality-of-life systems. Cutbacks in these public structures will erode our capacity to attract investment and immigration by young and talented people. Your proposal to maintain the estate tax for at least another year would affect only a small percentage of very wealthy Wisconsin families. But this would prevent a sizable loss of revenue so needed for overall stability. In addition, your effort to enact a small tax on hospitals and thereby increase federal aid—a move supported by the Wisconsin Hospital Association—would benefit the state's entire health care system.

Our organizations stand behind these initiatives and know that the people we represent understand and value your leadership in bringing these proposals to the Legislature and the public. We hope you will continue to fight for policies that will grow the resource base necessary to maintain valuable public services. This will entail even broader tax reforms.

Research has shown that over sixty percent of the largest corporations doing business and filing tax returns in Wisconsin pay no income tax at all. At the same time, though, these companies rely on the broad array of state and local services that allow them to thrive. Through combined reporting and other mechanisms, we can ensure that these multi-state and multi-national corporations pay their share of the cost for strong and healthy communities.

We know you are committed to making Wisconsin successful. We share this goal and are eager to work with you to make sure Wisconsin residents have the opportunities they need and deserve to be effective players in the economy as well as healthy, engaged citizens and family members.

With great appreciation,

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families  
Citizen Action of Wisconsin  
Institute for Wisconsin's Future  
Madison Teachers Inc.  
League of Women Voters of Wisconsin  
South Central Federation of Labor  
Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools  
CWA WI Political Council  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 494  
Painters and Allied Trades District Council 7  
Milwaukee Area Labor Council  
IBEW State Conference of Inside Construction Locals  
AFSCME Council 40 (*Wisconsin Council of County and Municipal Employees Union*)  
Wisconsin State Employees Union Council 24  
AFT-Wisconsin  
IUOE Local 310

Wisconsin State AFL-CIO  
Wisconsin Laborers District Council  
Edward J. Huck *Wisconsin Alliance of Cities*  
Peter McAvoy  
John Mathews  
Patrick Flaherty  
David Behrendt  
David Stone  
Adolph & Suzanne Rosenblatt  
Annette Robertson  
Attorney Beth A. Eisendrath  
Doug Burnett, *AFSCME International*  
Mark Supanich and Kaja Rebane *Co-Presidents, Teaching Assistants' Association, AFT Local # 3220*  
Jeff Spitzer-Resnick *Disability Rights Wisconsin*  
Judith Gatlin  
Sara Companik

\* *Organizations in italics listed for identification purposes only*