



Metropolitan Milwaukee
Association of Commerce

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2008

**TO: STEERING AND RULES COMMITTEE, MILWAUKEE
COMMON COUNCIL**

**FROM: STEVE BAAS, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
METROPOLITAN MILWAUKEE ASSOCIATION OF
COMMERCE**

RE: SEWRPC

On behalf of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC), I strongly urge you to reject the proposed resolution encouraging Milwaukee County to withdraw from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC).

MMAC represents over 2,000 member businesses employing over 300,000 workers throughout the metropolitan Milwaukee area. The MMC is also a founding partner in the Milwaukee 7 regional economic development partnership. As such, our organization has worked for many years with SEWRPC staff and have consistently found them to be professional, thorough and regional in their outlook. In addition, as the 7-county Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Southeast Wisconsin, SEWRPC allows access to federal funds critical to this region. The planning process, by it's nature, deals with controversial, long-term issues and as a result SEWRPC's analyses do not always satisfy every interest group. In our long experience with them, however, we have always found that SEWRPC has fairly and honestly developed their plans with a great deal of expertise, thought and input from various constituencies and political jurisdictions.

In today's global economy, working together as a region is more important today than ever before. When differences of opinion occur on issues within our region they need to be dealt with in a professional manner not through threats. SEWRPC has prepared well documented plans for many years and Milwaukee should be an engaged and involved partner in helping them provide this same sort of leadership for yours to come. Setting up a one county MPO will not happen. What could happen is a great loss in federal funds for Milwaukee County and others if it withdraws its support and input.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

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