

Southeastern Wisconsin

LINDA

Regional Transit Authority

April 27, 2007

Judiciary & Legislation Committee
City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Consideration of Legislative File Number 061450

Members of the Judiciary & Legislation Committee:

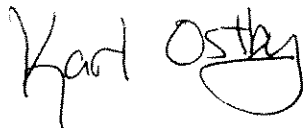
The RTA continues to diligently pursue its responsibilities to advance a funding source for commuter rail service between Milwaukee and Kenosha and to address the needs of the largely bus-based transit systems servicing Milwaukee County and the Cities of Kenosha and Racine.

I appreciate your consideration of a resolution addressing a critical need as the RTA pursues its objectives. As you know, the current statute governing the RTA (Wis. Stat. Section 59.58 (6)) requires that all RTA action be approved by a vote of six of its seven members. Due to negative quorum restrictions in the state public meeting laws, no member of the RTA can speak to another member of the RTA outside of a publicly noticed meeting. As you can imagine, this creates significant challenges in building consensus as we work to address transit needs in Milwaukee and throughout the region.

I urge you to adopt an official policy position that the state statute should be amended to enable the RTA to operate without the current negative quorum restrictions through support of the resolution before you today. Such a revision would enable the RTA to more effectively continue its efforts to address regional transit needs.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 262-942-4321, or the RTA staff in care of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Philip C. Evenson, Executive Director, at 262-547-6721.

Sincerely,



Karl J. Ostby, Chairperson
Southeastern Wisconsin
Regional Transit Authority