



**Wisconsin
County Code
Administrators**

August 31, 2007

Senator Judy Robson
Room 211 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Proposed Changes to the Smart Growth Law in the State Budget

Dear Senator Judy Robson:

As Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Wisconsin County Code Administrators (WCCA), I would like to submit the following comments on the exemption of municipalities of less than 2,500 from the state comprehensive planning requirements. The WCCA is an association of County Zoning Administrators and Sanitary Inspectors who are responsible for the administration and enforcement of the County's land regulations which include zoning codes (floodplain, wetland, shoreland, etc.), private sewage systems codes, land division codes and comprehensive planning.

WCCA strongly disagrees with the proposed exemption of municipalities of less than 2,500 from the state comprehensive planning requirements.

This provision would exempt 1,501 of the 1,923 total counties, cities, villages, and towns from the requirement to do a comprehensive plan. This provision is taking away the power of small communities across this state to thoughtfully and democratically determine how they want their communities to develop and function in the future. Regardless of whether a community is small or large, smart growth planning creates accountability and ensures that residents and property owners will have the opportunity to say what they value in their community and to help elected leaders plan for the future with respect to land use. In addition, we should be encouraging, not impeding, these types of opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation, conflict resolution and the cost-effective and efficient sharing of service and facilities.

This budget provision undermines the intent of the state comprehensive planning law, which is to promote comprehensive community planning for all communities no just for new land development, but for the diverse number of services and functions that our communities – large and small – provide, which include economic development transportation, housing community facilities such as schools, parks , police, fire stations and healthcare facilities, to name just a few.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle J. Staff". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.

Michelle J. Staff
Second Vice-President, Wisconsin County Code Administrators
Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department
320 S. Main Street, Rm 201
Jefferson, WI 53549

cc: WCCA Executive Board
Wisconsin Counties Association