

HOW THEY VOTED



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORD: 2015-16 SESSION

WMC
WISCONSIN MANUFACTURERS
& COMMERCE

WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORD

SESSION OVERVIEW

SCOTT MANLEY

WMC Senior Vice President of Government Relations

Many lawmakers claim to care about jobs and economic growth, but far fewer actually have a voting record that demonstrates their support for pro-growth policies. At WMC, we think it's important for employers, employees and taxpayers to know exactly where their lawmakers stood on the issues that matter most to our economic vitality.

Our "How They Voted" scorecard gives an objective measure of whether lawmakers were willing to support legislation to improve our business climate and thereby make it easier for employers to create and maintain family-supporting jobs in Wisconsin. The scorecard lists 47 votes on issues important to the business community, and how lawmakers voted on each issue.

WMC is incredibly pleased that a total of 82 lawmakers had a score of at least 80%, earning them a "Working for Wisconsin" award for the 2015-2016 session of the legislature. That number includes 63 members of the State Assembly and 19 members of the State Senate. Never before have so many lawmakers earned this distinction.

This legislative session will go down as one of the most impactful in the history of WMC's advocacy. Lawmakers set the tone for the session by enacting 2015 Act 1, Wisconsin's Right to Work law – a policy supported by WMC for decades. Passage of Right to Work sends perhaps the strongest signal yet that Wisconsin is open for business and is serious about competing for job growth and capital investment.

Many other important pro-growth reforms were enacted this session, including changes to the alternative minimum tax (AMT), continuation of the property tax freeze, and full implementation of the manufacturing and agricultural tax credit. The legislature also passed into law important reforms to our unemployment insurance and workers compensation programs.

Despite these victories, key priorities were left as unfinished business at the end of the session including regulatory reform and federalization of Wisconsin's family and medical leave act (FMLA). Those issues will be included in WMC's legislative agenda for the next session.

Taking a stand for businesses and protecting Wisconsin's economic competitiveness is often about working to prevent really bad ideas from becoming law. Our scorecard also features a list of the **Top 15 Worst Bills** that were successfully blocked this session. The list is a great insight into how much harm could be done if the wrong people are making the decisions in Madison.

WMC and the business community as a whole express sincere thanks to the legislators who took a stand for free enterprise and economic opportunity this session. We look forward to working on additional victories in 2017. For more information about WMC's legislative agenda, visit www.wmc.org.

By the Numbers

1,830

Bills introduced in the 2015-2016 legislative session

392

Bills signed into law by Governor Walker

140

Bills on which WMC lobbied lawmakers in 2015-2016 session to date

6,940

Lobbying hours logged by WMC in 2015-2016 session to date

47

Roll call votes on the scorecard

\$224 Million

Dollars of tax cuts enacted this session

19

Senators scored 80% or better on the WMC scorecard

63

Representatives scored 80% or better on the WMC scorecard

The New York Times

"On Monday, Gov. Scott Walker — who in 2011 succeeded in slashing collective bargaining rights for most public sector workers — signed a bill that makes his state the 25th to adopt [right to work] and has given new momentum to the business-led movement, its supporters say."

MILWAUKEE • WISCONSIN JOURNAL SENTINEL

"Union membership in Wisconsin collapsed in 2015, falling well below the national average for the first time and thinning the ranks of the labor movement by tens of thousands of workers in one of its former bastions."

Forbes

"The Walker tax cuts on top of this trend means that Wisconsin's effective rate of state tax is roughly 10 percent lower than it was a decade ago."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

"Wisconsin has been doing well in the wake of conservative reforms. These include Act 10, which reduced the monopoly power of public unions, tax reduction and regulatory reforms, school-choice expansion and more recently a right-to-work law that lets workers choose whether to join a union and pay dues."

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

"A strong majority of Wisconsin business leaders expected the state and national economies to grow in the next six months, with more than half also planning to hire for their own companies, according to the latest member survey from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce."

HOW THEY

SENATE



Sen. Rob Cowles



Sen. Alberta Darling



Sen. Scott Fitzgerald



Sen. Rick Gudex



Sen. Sheila Harsdorf

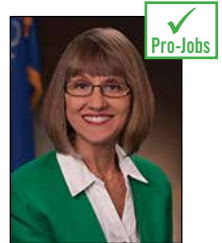
Legislator	District	Hometown	For	Against	%
Janet Bewley (D)	SD-25	Ashland	1	16	6%
Tim Carpenter (D)	SD-3	Milwaukee	4	20	17%
Rob Cowles (R)	SD-2	Green Bay	22	2	92%
Alberta Darling (R)	SD-8	River Hills	23	0	100%
Jon Erpenbach (D)	SD-27	Middleton	4	20	17%
Scott Fitzgerald (R)	SD-13	Juneau	24	0	100%
Rick Gudex (R)	SD-18	Fond du Lac	24	0	100%
Dave Hansen (D)	SD-30	Green Bay	5	19	21%
Nikiya Harris Dodd (D)	SD-6	Milwaukee	3	14	18%
Sheila Harsdorf (R)	SD-10	River Falls	24	0	100%
Chris Kapenga (R)	SD-33	Delafield	17	0	100%
Chris Larson (D)	SD-7	Milwaukee	3	21	13%
Frank Lasee (R)	SD-1	De Pere	24	0	100%
Julie Lassa (D)	SD-24	Stevens Point	5	19	21%
Mary Lazich (R)	SD-28	New Berlin	24	0	100%
Devin LeMahieu (R)	SD-9	Oostburg	24	0	100%
Howard Marklein (R)	SD-17	Spring Green	24	0	100%
Mark Miller (D)	SD-16	Monona	4	20	17%
Terry Moulton (R)	SD-23	Chippewa Falls	24	0	100%



Sen. Chris Kapenga



Sen. Frank Lasee



Sen. Mary Lazich



Sen. Devin LeMahieu



Sen. Howard Marklein

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VOTED

2015-16 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SENATE



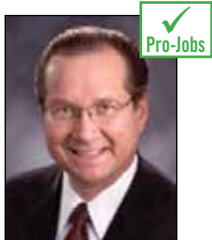
Sen. Terry Moulton



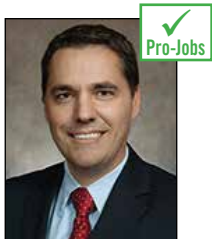
Sen. Stephen Nass



Sen. Luther Olsen



Sen. Jerry Petrowski



Sen. Roger Roth

Legislator	District	Hometown	For	Against	%
Stephen Nass (R)	SD-11	Whitewater	24	0	100%
Luther Olsen (R)	SD-14	Ripon	24	0	100%
Jerry Petrowski (R)	SD-29	Marathon	23	1	96%
Janis Ringhand (D)	SD-15	Evansville	5	19	21%
Fred Risser (D)	SD-26	Madison	3	21	13%
Roger Roth (R)	SD-19	Appleton	22	0	100%
Jennifer Shilling (D)	SD-32	La Crosse	5	19	21%
Duey Stroebel (R)	SD-20	Saukville	20	0	100%
Lena Taylor (D)	SD-4	Milwaukee	4	20	17%
Tom Tiffany (R)	SD-12	Hazelhurst	24	0	100%
Kathleen Vinehout (D)	SD-31	Alma	4	20	17%
Leah Vukmir (R)	SD-5	Brookfield	24	0	100%
Van Wanggaard (R)	SD-21	Racine	24	0	100%
Bob Wirch (D)	SD-22	Kenosha	4	20	17%



Sen. Duey Stroebel



Sen. Tom Tiffany



Sen. Leah Vukmir



Sen. Van Wanggaard

Legislators designated in the blue bars scored 80% or better on the WMC Scorecard and will receive the 2016 WMC Working for Wisconsin Award.

HOW THEY

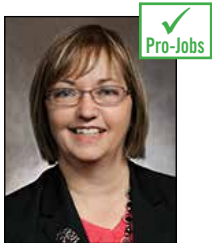
ASSEMBLY



Rep. Scott Allen



Rep. Tyler August



Rep. Joan Ballweg



Rep. Kathy Bernier



Rep. Mark Born

Legislator	District	Hometown	For	Against	%
Scott Allen (R)	AD-97	Waukesha	23	0	100%
Tyler August (R)	AD-32	Lake Geneva	23	0	100%
Joan Ballweg (R)	AD-41	Markesan	23	0	100%
Peter Barca (D)	AD-64	Kenosha	3	19	14%
Mandela Barnes (D)	AD-11	Milwaukee	3	19	14%
Terese Berceau (D)	AD-77	Madison	3	19	14%
Kathy Bernier (R)	AD-68	Chippewa Falls	22	1	96%
Jill Billings (D)	AD-95	La Crosse	3	19	14%
Mark Born (R)	AD-39	Beaver Dam	23	0	100%
David Bowen (D)	AD-10	Milwaukee	1	19	5%
Janel Brandtjen (R)	AD-22	Menomonee Falls	23	0	100%
Edward Brooks (R)	AD-50	Reedsburg	22	1	96%
Robert Brooks (R)	AD-60	Saukville	20	0	100%
Jonathan Brostoff (D)	AD-19	Milwaukee	3	19	14%
Dave Considine (D)	AD-81	Baraboo	2	13	13%
David Craig (R)	AD-83	Big Bend	23	0	100%
Mary Czaja (R)	AD-35	Irma	22	0	100%
Chris Danou (D)	AD-92	Trempealeau	3	17	15%
Steve Doyle (D)	AD-94	Onalaska	3	19	14%



Rep. Janel Brandtjen



Rep. Ed Brooks



Rep. Robert Brooks



Rep. David Craig



Rep. Mary Czaja

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2015-16 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ASSEMBLY

Legislator	District	Hometown	For	Against	%
Cindi Duchow (R)	AD-99	Town of Delafield	17	0	100%
James Edming (R)	AD-87	Glen Flora	22	1	96%
Bob Gannon (R)	AD-58	West Bend	20	0	100%
Eric Genrich (D)	AD-90	Green Bay	3	19	14%
Evan Goyke (D)	AD-18	Milwaukee	3	19	14%
David Heaton (R)	AD-85	Wausau	22	1	96%
Gary Hebl (D)	AD-46	Sun Prairie	3	19	14%
Dianne Hesselbein (D)	AD-79	Middleton	3	19	14%
Gordon Hintz (D)	AD-54	Oshkosh	3	19	14%
Cody Horlacher (R)	AD-33	Mukwonago	23	0	100%
Rob Hutton (R)	AD-13	Brookfield	23	0	100%
André Jacque (R)	AD-2	De Pere	22	0	100%
John Jagler (R)	AD-37	Watertown	23	0	100%
Adam Jarchow (R)	AD-28	Balsam Lake	23	0	100%
LaTonya Johnson (D)	AD-17	Milwaukee	2	20	9%
Andy Jorgensen (D)	AD-43	Milton	3	19	14%
Robb Kahl (D)	AD-47	Monona	2	19	10%
Terry Katsma (R)	AD-26	Oostburg	23	0	100%
Samantha Kerkman (R)	AD-61	Salem	23	0	100%



Rep. Cindi Duchow



Rep. James Edming



Rep. Bob Gannon



Rep. David Heaton



Rep. Cody Horlacher



Rep. Rob Hutton



Rep. André Jacque



Rep. John Jagler



Rep. Adam Jarchow



Rep. Terry Katsma

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HOW THEY

ASSEMBLY



Rep. Samantha Kerkman



Rep. Joel Kitchens



Rep. Joel Kleefisch



Rep. Dan Knodl



Rep. Dean Knudson

Legislator	District	Hometown	For	Against	%
Frederick Kessler (D)	AD-12	Milwaukee	3	19	14%
Joel Kitchens (R)	AD-1	Sturgeon Bay	21	2	91%
Joel Kleefisch (R)	AD-38	Oconomowoc	23	0	100%
Dan Knodl (R)	AD-24	Germantown	23	0	100%
Dean Knudson (R)	AD-30	Hudson	23	0	100%
Debra Kolste (D)	AD-44	Janesville	3	19	14%
Dale Kooyenga (R)	AD-14	Brookfield	14	0	100%
Jesse Kremer (R)	AD-59	Kewaskum	21	0	100%
Scott Krug (R)	AD-72	Nekoosa	21	2	91%
Mike Kuglitsch (R)	AD-84	New Berlin	23	0	100%
Bob Kulp (R)	AD-69	Stratford	23	0	100%
Tom Larson (R)	AD-67	Colfax	22	0	100%
Amy Loudenbeck (R)	AD-31	Clinton	23	0	100%
John Macco (R)	AD-88	Ledgeview	23	0	100%
Cory Mason (D)	AD-66	Racine	1	19	5%
Beth Meyers (D)	AD-74	Bayfield	3	19	14%
Nick Milroy (D)	AD-73	South Range	3	19	14%
Dave Murphy (R)	AD-56	Greenville	23	0	100%
Jeffrey Mursau (R)	AD-36	Crivitz	23	0	100%



Rep. Dale Kooyenga



Rep. Jesse Kremer



Rep. Scott Krug



Rep. Mike Kuglitsch



Rep. Bob Kulp

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2015-16 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ASSEMBLY



Rep. Tom Larson



Rep. Amy Loudenbeck



Rep. John Macco

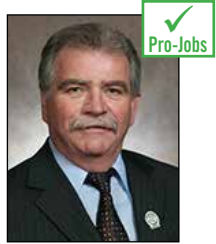


Rep. Dave Murphy



Rep. Jeffrey Mursau

Legislator	District	Hometown	For	Against	%
John Murtha (R)	AD-29	Baldwin	23	0	100%
Lee Nerison (R)	AD-96	Westby	22	1	96%
Adam Neylon (R)	AD-98	Pewaukee	23	0	100%
Todd Novak (R)	AD-51	Dodgeville	20	3	87%
John Nygren (R)	AD-89	Marinette	22	1	96%
Tod Ohnstad (D)	AD-65	Kenosha	3	19	14%
Al Ott (R)	AD-3	Forest Junction	22	1	96%
Jim Ott (R)	AD-23	Mequon	23	0	100%
Kevin Petersen (R)	AD-40	Waupaca	23	0	100%
Warren Petryk (R)	AD-93	Eleva	21	2	91%
Sondy Pope (D)	AD-80	Mt. Horeb	3	19	14%
Romaine Quinn (R)	AD-75	Rice Lake	23	0	100%
Daniel Riemer (D)	AD-7	Milwaukee	1	15	6%
Keith Ripp (R)	AD-42	Lodi	19	1	95%
Jessie Rodriguez (R)	AD-21	Oak Creek	23	0	100%
Mike Rohrkaste (R)	AD-55	Neenah	23	0	100%
Joe Sanfelippo (R)	AD-15	New Berlin	22	0	100%
Melissa Sargent (D)	AD-48	Madison	3	19	14%
Michael Schraa (R)	AD-53	Oshkosh	23	0	100%



Rep. John Murtha



Rep. Lee Nerison



Rep. Adam Neylon



Rep. Todd Novak



Rep. John Nygren

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HOW THEY

ASSEMBLY



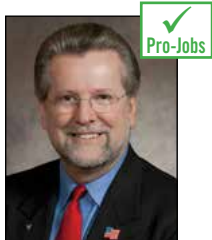
Rep. Al Ott



Rep. Jim Ott



Rep. Kevin Petersen



Rep. Warren Petryk



Rep. Romaine Quinn

Legislator	District	Hometown	For	Against	%
Katrina Shankland (D)	AD-71	Stevens Point	3	19	14%
Christine Sinicki (D)	AD-20	Milwaukee	3	18	14%
Ken Skowronski (R)	AD-82	Franklin	22	0	100%
John Spiros (R)	AD-86	Marshfield	22	0	100%
Mark Spreitzer (D)	AD-45	Beloit	3	19	14%
David Steffen (R)	AD-4	Green Bay	22	1	96%
Jim Steineke (R)	AD-5	Kaukauna	23	0	100%
Amanda Struck (D)	AD-57	Appleton	3	19	14%
Lisa Subeck (D)	AD-78	Madison	3	19	14%
Rob Swearingen (R)	AD-34	Rhineland	23	0	100%
Gary Tauchen (R)	AD-6	Bonduel	23	0	100%
Chris Taylor (D)	AD-76	Madison	2	20	9%
Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R)	AD-52	Fond du Lac	23	0	100%
Paul Tittl (R)	AD-25	Manitowoc	23	0	100%
Travis Tranel (R)	AD-49	Cuba City	18	2	90%
Nancy VanderMeer (R)	AD-70	Tomah	22	1	96%
Tyler Vorpapel (R)	AD-27	Plymouth	23	0	100%
Robin Vos (R)	AD-63	Rochester	23	0	100%
Dana Wachs (D)	AD-91	Eau Claire	3	18	14%



Rep. Keith Ripp



Rep. Jessie Rodriguez



Rep. Mike Rohrkaste



Rep. Joe Sanfelippo



Rep. Michael Schraa

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2015-16 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ASSEMBLY



Rep. Ken Skowronski



Rep. John Spiros



Rep. David Steffen



Rep. Jim Steineke



Rep. Rob Swearingen

Legislator	District	Hometown	For	Against	%
Thomas Weatherston (R)	AD-62	Caledonia	20	0	100%
Leon Young (D)	AD-16	Milwaukee	3	19	14%
JoCasta Zamarripa (D)	AD-8	Milwaukee	3	19	14%
Josh Zepnick (D)	AD-9	Milwaukee	1	18	5%



Rep. Gary Tauchen



Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt



Rep. Paul Titti



Rep. Travis Tranel



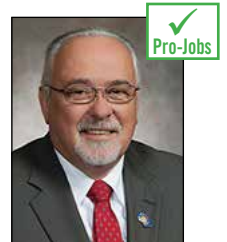
Rep. Nancy VanderMeer



Rep. Tyler Vorpapel



Rep. Robin Vos



Rep. Thomas Weatherston

MILWAUKEE • WISCONSIN
JOURNAL SENTINEL
 "Adding Walker's first term cuts to the ones in the current budget, tax cuts are projected at more than \$4.7 billion. To be exact: \$4,756,630,000."

LEADER-TELEGRAM
 "More people in the Chippewa Valley and elsewhere in nearly all of Wisconsin were working in March compared with the previous month, a trend fueled by the largest job additions in more than a decade."

BizTimes
 MILWAUKEE BUSINESS NEWS
 "Wisconsin's unemployment rate hit a 14-year low of 4.3 percent in September... That is the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state since April of 2001 and is down from 4.5 percent in August of 2015."

Legislators designated in the blue bars scored 80% or better on the WMC Scorecard and will receive the 2016 WMC Working for Wisconsin Award.

BILL SUMMARIES

Assembly Bill 12: Minimum Wage

WMC opposed this bill, which would have increased the statewide minimum wage and repealed a current prohibition on local governments from setting a local minimum wage.

Assembly Bill 251: State REINS Act

WMC supported passage of this bill to empower the legislature and to add greater oversight and public involvement into the regulatory process.

Assembly Bill 373: Civil Service Reform

WMC supported passage of this bill to give state government more flexibility to manage personnel and improve its overall effectiveness.

Assembly Bill 384: Nuclear Moratorium Repeal

WMC supported passage of this bill to repeal the 30-year old moratorium and allow nuclear power to be a part of the conversation when it comes to our state's long-term energy needs.

Assembly Bill 387: Campaign Finance Reform

WMC supported passage of this bill to update the statutes to conform with constitutional requirements, including affirmation of corporate free speech rights.

Assembly Bill 388: GAB Reform

WMC supported passage of this bill to eliminate the out of control GAB and restore the ethics and elections boards to oversee state law.

Assembly Bill 474: Paid Sick Leave

WMC opposed this bill that would have required all employers provide paid sick leave.

Assembly Bill 516: Expand FMLA

WMC opposed this effort to expand coverage of FMLA leave, greatly expand which employers are required to provide FMLA, and create a new statewide insurance program funded with payroll deductions.

Assembly Bill 543: Health Insurance

WMC supported this bill to require transparency of the social and economic impacts of health insurance mandates prior to the Legislature voting on such mandates.

Assembly Bill 553: Nonprofit Occasional Sales

WMC supported increasing the thresholds for nonprofit "occasional sales" that are exempt from the sales tax.

Assembly Bill 629: Excise Tax on Trucks

WMC successfully advocated for exempting the amount of Federal Excise Tax levied on heavy truck and truck trailers from the state sales tax.

Assembly Bill 724: Worker's Compensation Reform

WMC supported this reform package to bring meaningful changes to the Worker's Compensation law, including disallowing indemnity benefits if a worker is in violation of a drug/alcohol policy and reducing the statute of limitations from 12 years to 6 for traumatic injuries.

Assembly Bill 730: Auxiliary Containers

WMC supported this legislation to preempt local governments from banning auxiliary containers such as plastic bags and clamshell containers.

Assembly Bill 804: Double Energy Tax Elimination

WMC supported this bill which closed a loophole that was being used as a double tax on electricity.

WMC GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM



KURT BAUER
President/CEO



SCOTT MANLEY
Senior Vice President of
Government Relations



JASON CULOTTA
Senior Director of
Government Relations



JIM PUGH
Director of
Public Relations &
Issues Management



CHRIS READER
Director of
Health & Human
Resources Policy



LUCAS VEBBER
Director of Energy &
Environmental Policy

2015-16 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Assembly Bill 819: Unemployment Insurance Reforms

WMC supported the passage of this bill to bring further clarity to the UI system and protect the integrity of the UI Trust Fund.

Assembly Bill 874: High Capacity Well Legislation

WMC supported this bill to give more certainty and predictability to high capacity well permit holders in Wisconsin (substantially similar to SB 239).

Assembly Bill 900: Repeal Act 10

WMC opposed this attempt to repeal 2011 Act 10, Governor Walker's major public-sector collective bargaining reform that has saved taxpayers more than \$5 billion.

Senate Bill 21: State Budget Bill

WMC supported passage of the 2015-2017 state budget to set the state's tax and spending priorities for the next two years, including a freeze on property taxes and other pro-growth initiatives.

Senate Bill 44: Right-to-Work

WMC supported Right-to-Work, giving workers the freedom to work without being forced to join or pay fees to a labor union.

Senate Bill 239: High Capacity Well Legislation

WMC supported this bill to give more certainty and predictability to high capacity well permit holders in Wisconsin (substantially similar to Assembly Bill 874).

Senate Bill 422: Franchise Reform Law

With franchise operators facing over-regulation at the federal level, WMC supported Senate Bill 422 to make clear, at least for state purposes, that workers of a local franchise location are the employees of that location alone.

Senate Bill 449: Experience-based Teaching License

WMC supported this bill to expand a recent law allowing experienced-based teachers in vocational fields to help address shortages of licensed teachers.

Senate Bill 459: Private Property Rights/Lands Near Water

WMC supported this bill to increase private property rights and to help clarify state and local government authority for property owners and developers.

Senate Bill 503: Tax Fairness Package

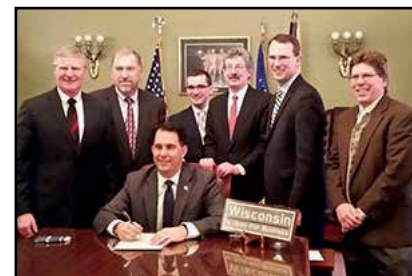
WMC supported this legislation that federalized the economic substance statute and limited broad production of documents penalties to taxpayers who do not comply with a subpoena.



Kurt Bauer, WMC President/CEO, Scott Manley, WMC Senior Vice President of Government Relations, and Chris Reader, WMC Director of Health and Human Resources Policy, with Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and Governor Scott Walker at the Right to Work bill signing.



U. S. Senator Ron Johnson and Kurt Bauer, WMC President/CEO.



Jason Culotta (second from right), WMC Senior Director of Government Relations, at the Tax Fairness bill signing with Governor Scott Walker.



Scott Manley, WMC Senior Vice President of Government Relations, and Chris Reader, WMC Director of Health and Human Resources Policy, testifying in support of Right to Work.

BILL SUMMARIES



Scott Manley, WMC Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Attorney General Brad Schimel, and Kurt Bauer, WMC President/CEO.



Jason Culotta, WMC Senior Director of Government Relations, testifying on sales tax simplification.



Lucas Vebber (right), WMC Director of Environmental and Energy Policy, at the Nuclear Moratorium Repeal bill signing with Governor Scott Walker.



Scott Manley, WMC Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Congressman Reid Ribble, and Kurt Bauer, WMC President/CEO.

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Senate Bill 666: Repeal Act 10

WMC opposed this attempt to repeal 2011 Act 10, Governor Walker's major public-sector collective bargaining reform that has saved taxpayers more than \$5 billion.

Senate Joint Resolution 2: Chief Justice

WMC supported this constitutional amendment allowing a majority of Supreme Court justices to select the chief justice.

State Budget: AMT Reform Amendment

WMC opposed this amendment to delete from the budget bill the federalization of the state alternative minimum tax exemption amounts and exemption phase-out provisions.

State Budget: Voluntary Overtime Amendment

WMC supported this budget amendment to allow employees to voluntarily work 7 or more straight days without first needing permission from state bureaucrats.

State Budget: Water Regulations Amendment

WMC opposed an amendment that would have created costly new regulations and permitting uncertainty for high capacity well owners.

Right-to-Work: At-Will Employment Repeal Amendment

WMC opposed this amendment, which would have repealed Wisconsin's at-will employment status for private employment. The amendment was defeated.

Right-to-Work: Minimum Wage Amendment

WMC opposed this amendment that would have increased the statewide minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

Right-to-Work: WMC Membership Amendment

Opponents of Right-to-Work tried amending the bill with a provision that would have prohibited WMC from collecting dues from our members. The amendment was defeated.

Campaign Finance Reform: Free Speech Restrictions

WMC opposed an attempt to restrict free speech through a costly new regulatory scheme.

15 WORST BILLS OF THE SESSION

Sometimes the best offense is a strong defense. Blocking bills that would harm our business climate by imposing costly and cumbersome regulations is every bit as important as passing bills that would improve our business climate. With that in mind, we thought it would be important to highlight some truly bad bills that did not pass because of the efforts of pro-growth lawmakers and WMC's advocacy against these misguided proposals.

Assembly Bill 12: Allowing Local Minimum Wages

This bill, introduced by Rep. Cory Mason (D) and Sen. Bob Wirch (D), would subject employers to an expensive and confusing patchwork of minimum wage requirements by allowing local governments to enact their own minimum wage. The bill also hikes the state minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour, and indexes it to inflation.

Assembly Bill 151 / Senate Bill 100: Zoning Sand Mining Out of Existence

This bill, introduced by Rep. Chris Danou (D) and Sen. Kathleen Vinehout (D), would have added expensive and unprecedented requirements to the process of siting a new industrial sand facility in the state.

Assembly Bill 160 / Senate Bill 270: Repealing "At-Will" Employment

Wisconsin has long been an "at-will" employment state, which means workers can leave a job at-will, and can be terminated at-will. Rep. Tod Ohnstad (D) and Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D) introduced legislation to undue this long-standing doctrine by prohibiting employers from discharging employees without wrongdoing.

Assembly Bill 264: Mandating a \$15 Per Hour Minimum Wage

Looking to join their counterparts in San Francisco and Seattle, Rep. Melissa Sargent (D) and Sen. Bob Wirch (D) introduced legislation to more than double the minimum wage in Wisconsin to \$15/hour, despite evidence that such an increase will result in drastic low-wage job loss.

Assembly Bill 318: Unemployment Insurance Cost Increase

With unemployment at low levels, the Unemployment Trust Fund is building a surplus, preparing for the next recession and jump in claims. Rather than let the fund continue to grow, Rep. Deb Kolste (D) and Sen. Julie Lassa (D) introduced a bill to add \$25 million in annual costs to the program by making unemployed workers eligible for benefits one week sooner.

Assembly Bill 461: Repeal of Parental School Choice Law

Wisconsin has been a national leader in granting parents options when it comes to K-12 education. First started in Milwaukee, school choice has now been expanded statewide, ensuring that all kids, regardless of income or zip code, can attend a school of their parents' choosing. Rep. Sondy Pope (D) and the Democratic Minority Leader, Rep. Peter Barca (D), introduced AB 461 to repeal the statewide school choice program, ending those options for parents throughout the state.

Assembly Bill 474 / Senate Bill 352: Mandatory Paid Sick Leave

Many employers offer paid sick leave as part of their benefits packages in order to attract and retain top talent. Not satisfied that some employers don't provide paid sick leave or can't afford to, Rep. Cory Mason (D) and Sen. Nikiya Harris Dodd (D) introduced a bill to require all employers to provide paid sick leave to workers.

Assembly Bill 516 / Senate Bill 385: Mandatory Paid Family Medical Leave

Legislation by Rep. Sondy Pope (D) and Sen. Janis Ringhand (D) would have drastically expanded Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requirements in Wisconsin by applying the law to all businesses with at least 25 workers (current level is 50+) and requiring leave to care for grandparents, grandchildren and siblings. The bill also would have required employers to provide paid FMLA leave by creating a new government-run insurance program paid by a new payroll tax.

Assembly Bill 570 / Senate Bill 145: New Employment Discrimination Penalties

In addition to penalties already in law to stop employment discrimination, Rep. Christine Sinicki (D) and Sen. Dave Hansen (D) introduced legislation to pile on additional penalties, including the ability for workers to bring costly new lawsuits in court.

Assembly Bill 605: Chilling of Corporate Free Speech

This bill, introduced by Rep. Terese Berceau (D) and Sen. Janis Ringhand (D), would have put onerous new state reporting requirements on businesses in an attempt to prevent those businesses from engaging in advocacy about issues important to them.

Assembly Bill 634 / Senate Bill 577: Establishing Special Air Regulations to Stifle Sand Mining

This bill, introduced by Rep. Chris Danou (D) and Sen. Kathleen Vinehout (D), would have subjected industrial sand companies to costly, unwarranted, and ineffective new monitoring requirements in an effort to stifle growth in the industry.

Assembly Bill 900 / Senate Bill 666: Repeal of Collective Bargaining Reforms

Democrats, led by Rep. Chris Taylor (D) and Sen. Fred Risser (D), attempted to repeal Governor Walker's public sector collective bargaining reform law, Act 10, despite the fact that Act 10 has saved taxpayers \$5 billion, saved teaching jobs and allowed local governments the flexibility to innovate with their workforces.

Senate Bill 773: Expensive Global Warming Mandates

This bill, introduced by Rep. Dianne Hesselbein (D) and Sen. Fred Risser (D), would have increased the state's mandate for renewable energy, driving up electricity costs and making Wisconsin less competitive. This costly legislation was proposed at a time of significant regulatory uncertainty at the federal level and would have further burdened every Wisconsinite who pays an electric bill.

Assembly Joint Resolution 120: Constitutional Amendment to Strip Businesses of Rights

This constitutional amendment, introduced by Rep. Chris Taylor (D) and Sen. Fred Risser (D) would have stripped corporations of constitutional rights, including free speech.

Senate Joint Resolution 12: Referendum to Limit Corporate Speech Rights

This constitutional amendment, introduced by Rep. Lisa Subeck (D) and Sen. Dave Hansen (D), would have required a statewide referendum vote to strip corporations of constitutional rights, including free speech.



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