



MADISON AREA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

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For More Information Contact:
Andrew Disch 608-288-1135

Applauds Joint Finance Committee leadership on CARPC reform

Action preserves regional collaboration while adding predictability to the process

Madison - The Madison Area Builders Association applauds the Joint Finance Committee for its courage to support much-needed reform to the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC). The action by JFC maintains rigorous DNR standards set forth in Adm. Code NR 121 while ensuring that municipal proposals receive a timely decision by enacting a 90 day timeline.

CARPC has been marked by excessive delays and turmoil when municipalities have applied for urban service extensions for its sewer systems. Without expanding urban service, new economic development is not practical. The 90 day timeline proposed does not begin until a formal application is submitted to the Commission. By the time a formal application is submitted, the following has occurred: 1) concept development at the municipal level 2) concept presentation to CARPC 3) consultation with CARPC staff 4) preliminary proposal and 5) preliminary presentation to CARPC.

Unfortunately municipalities with job-creating development plans have been stifled at CARPC by delays due to political pressure. In the case of Mazomanie, the delay amounted to years. This action will insulate the Commission from outside political pressure by requiring it to base its decisions on objective water quality standards.

This action stands in stark contrast to the position taken by Dane County Executive Parisi who has called for CARPC's dissolution. Unlike dissolution, this action preserves regional collaboration by maintaining the current makeup of CARPC by Dane County residents from each of the four appointing bodies: The City of Madison, Dane County, Dane County Towns and Dane County Cities and Villages.

Municipalities - not developers - apply for urban service extensions to CARPC. With projects judged on their merits, it will allow municipalities to come forward with innovative plans that will create high-paying jobs and increase tax base while protecting the environment.