

To: Joint Committee on Finance

Copy: Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald
Assembly Speaker Robin Vos

From: Aggregate Producers of Wisconsin
American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin
Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin
Midwest Equipment Dealers Association
Midwest Food Processors Association
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
Transportation Development Association
Wisconsin Economic Development Association
Wisconsin Independent Businesses
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
Wisconsin Paper Council
Wisconsin Restaurant Association
Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association

RE: DOT Transportation Funding Request – Approval Requested

Date: November 3, 2015

The above associations urge you to approve Wisconsin DOT's October 19 request for \$200 million in general obligation bonds for this fiscal year.

While bonding is not necessarily the preferred funding alternative, we support the contingency bonding contained in Act 55 to avoid further delays of vital infrastructure projects. These improvements to our roads benefit the entire state of Wisconsin.

If your committee approves the \$200 million contingent bonding for the current fiscal year, it would provide \$125 million to fund the Major Highway Development Program, which would advance needed highway improvements across the state. The remaining bonding would provide \$75 million to fund the State Highway Rehabilitation Program, which would restore 220 miles of projects that were removed from the 6-year program in Act 55.

Such infrastructure funding will save jobs and provide economic opportunities for the state of Wisconsin. Even if this contingency bonding were to be approved, it would still be a reduction in the bonding level dedicated for transportation from the previous budget.

While we share the concerns you may have over borrowing for roads without first having in place long-term solutions, we believe it is imperative for Wisconsin economic success to approve DOT's request for contingency bonding. In the longer term, we support moving Wisconsin to a more stable and sustainable system to fund our transportation needs in a predictable manner. We look forward to working with you to achieve that goal in the next budget.

Thank you very much for your consideration and please contact our associations' lobbyists or Rebecca Hogan at 608-258-9506 if you have any questions.