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November 2, 2015

To: Joint Finance Committee Members

From: Brandon Scholz & Michelle Kussow
Wisconsin Grocers Association

Re: Transportation Funding

On behalf of the members and Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Grocers Association, we respectfully request your support for Wisconsin Department of Transportation's funding request for \$200 million in general obligation bonds for the 2016 fiscal year and \$150 million in contingency bonding as provided for in the budget (Wis. Act 55) for 2017.

Funding for the Major Highway Development Program and the State Highway Rehabilitation Program is critical to Wisconsin's \$6 billion dollar grocery industry. From wholesale warehouses, suppliers, vendors and even home delivery services, we need good roads and road projects completed.

Please keep in mind during your deliberations that if the current slate of projects languishes and future projects and maintenance are delayed, the direct negative impact will be on the bottom line of our members. In a competitive industry where the margins are razor thin and the cost of compliance is enormous the last thing we need are unfinished road projects and uncertainty about our infrastructure.

We are not blind to the concerns that bonding and borrowing foster, but hopefully moving forward with this funding will incent the Governor and Legislature to come up with a long-term solution. We would be happy to be a part of that discussion and debate.