



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION**

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January 26, 2015

Mr. Patrick E. Fuller, Chief Clerk
Wisconsin State Assembly
17 West Main Street, Room 208
Madison, WI 53703

Jeff Renk, Acting Chief Clerk
Wisconsin State Senate
17 West Main, 4th floor Suite 401
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Fuller and Mr. Renk:

In compliance with Wisconsin Statute 16.548, enclosed, please find the Wisconsin Office of Federal/State Relations quarterly report, to be submitted to the Legislature for the fourth quarter of 2014. This report provides information on the activities of the Office and the status of federal legislation of concern to the State of Wisconsin.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this material.

Sincerely,



Mike Huebsch
Secretary

Attachment

cc: Governor Walker
Ed Eberle, DOA, Administrator, Division of Intergovernmental Relations

**State of Wisconsin
Washington, D.C. Federal Relations Office
Quarterly Report
(October 1 – December 31, 2014)**

In October, as part of the Governor's Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) Chair's Initiative, "*Strengthening the Propane Supply Chain*," we hosted a two-day meeting in Milwaukee of approximately 70 people from numerous state governor offices and agency staff, propane associations, federal government officials, and representatives from the trucking, propane, pipeline and other industries. The Lt. Governor kicked-off the meeting, which had participation from states, the federal government, associations and industry. For some attendees, it was their first time interacting with respective counterparts. One of the outcomes of the meeting included the development of a triggers document to specifically help each state, but also interested parties, be more propane prepared and ready by asking pertinent questions each season. As part of this initiative, Wisconsin also held its own meeting to discuss the upcoming season.

At the end of October, the Governor submitted testimony on behalf of the Appleton-based company, Appvion, to the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) regarding extending antidumping and countervailing duty orders on imported lightweight thermal paper. On December 17, the ITC ruled that Appvion won its case against the Chinese, however not against the Germans. The company may appeal.

In November, Congress returned for a "lame duck" session. After years of effort by many parties in our federal delegation, as well as the Governor and Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the provision to convert highway 41 to an interstate was finally granted through inclusion in the omnibus.

The staffing numbers and other issues within the National Guard/Department of Defense were essentially all frozen, and will likely reemerge next year. The Littoral Combat Ships will continue to be built; however, changes could also be in-store for them in the future as the Department of Defense looks to make modifications. The U.S. Department of Transportation's contentious 34-hour restart rule was put on hold for the remainder of the fiscal year. Many in the trucking industry had concerns with this new rule and were struggling with its implementation, especially as it relates to propane.

The Ashland lighthouse legislation was also completed in the lame duck, allowing the transfer of responsibility for the iconic structure from the Coast Guard to the National Park Service.

The DC office continues to work with the Wisconsin DNR in monitoring the Great Lakes, as well as the status of the long-eared bat and the grey wolf, as it relates to their respective endangered species list status.

Finally, the DC office participated in an NGA site visit to a substance abuse facility in Virginia as states consider effective policies in this area. The office also led an energy call in November between delegation staff and Wisconsin's energy experts to discuss the status of coal, propane, and other heat sources in preparation for the colder temperatures setting in. Finally, the office remained active in representing Wisconsin with the National Governors Association and Midwestern Governors Association.

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