



**TO: Assembly Committee on Ways and Means**  
**FROM: Paul Rozeski, Director of Government Affairs & Member Relations, WPT**  
**Date:** November 29, 2023  
**RE:** Assembly Bill 627

Good afternoon, Chairman Macco, Vice Chairman Brooks, and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in favor of Assembly Bill 627. Thank you, as well, to Representative Armstrong for authoring this proposal.

Wisconsin Property Taxpayers, Inc. has small business members throughout the state, and for well over a decade, employers have experienced a competitive labor market. As many of you know, since our economy was disrupted by the Covid and the decisions surrounding it, the competition for hiring employees has drastically increased.

One employer I spoke to shared that the lengths the company is going to for employee retention would have never been thought of a couple years ago. For a seasonal construction company to pull all its work-crews out of the field once a month for a half-day employee cookout would never have been considered.

Businesses of every size have been understaffed, and that trend is only going to slowly improve. Employment numbers from the Department of Workforce Development show that even though Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted Workforce Participation Rate has gone up 1.1%, from 64.7% in September 2022 to 65.8% in September 2023, most employers would still gladly take on additional help and cannot find it.

The new benchmark for employers in a more unsteady economy is to maintain employment numbers and improve the processes and operations to find efficiencies. That comes from investments in infrastructure, equipment, and facilities. The changes that AB 627 would make align the current tax credits with the new focus and priorities of the Wisconsin businesses it is designed to benefit.

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