

Algoma
Arcadia
Argyle
Bangor
Barron
Belmont
Benton
Black Earth
Black River Falls
Bloomer
Boscobel
Brodhead
Cadott
Cashton
Cedarburg
Centuria
Clintonville
Columbus
Cornell
Cuba City
Cumberland
Eagle River
Elkhorn
Elroy
Evansville
Fennimore
Florence
Gresham
Hartford
Hazel Green
Hustisford
Jefferson
Juneau
Kaukauna
Kiel
La Farge
Lake Mills
Lodi
Manitowoc
Marshfield
Mazomanie
Medford
Menasha
Merrillan
Mount Horeb
Muscoda
New Glarus
New Holstein
New Lisbon
New London
New Richmond
Oconomowoc
Oconto Falls
Pardeeville
Plymouth
Prairie du Sac
Princeton
Reedsburg
Rice Lake
Richland Center
River Falls
Sauk City
Shawano
Sheboygan Falls
Shullsburg
Slinger
Spooner
Stoughton
Stratford
Sturgeon Bay
Sun Prairie
Trempealeau
Two Rivers
Viola
Waterloo
Waunakee
Waupun
Westby
Whitehall
Wisconsin Dells
Wisconsin Rapids
Wonewoc

To: Members of the Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs

From: Scott Meske, Associate Director

Date: September 29, 2009

RE: MEUW Supports Assembly Bill 403; Local Government Property Insurance Holiday

MEUW is pleased to join others in supporting Assembly Bill 403, sponsored by Rep. Peter Barca and Sen. Kathleen Vinehout.

MEUW is the state trade association representing the interests of Wisconsin's 82 municipally owned electric utilities. Many MEUW Members participate in the Local Government Property Insurance Fund.

We believe that given the financial analysis of the Insurance Fund, and the budgeting challenges faced by local governmental entities across Wisconsin; AB 403 provides some needed relief at the local level, including local utilities who pay into the Fund. One of MEUW's larger Member utilities would realize a one-time break of nearly \$150,000. This money can then be used to offset unpaid utility bills and bankruptcies which continue to climb and affect our local utilities.

In summary, we support the financial analysis of the Bill, the timing of its introduction, and believe it's the right thing to do for Wisconsin's local governments. We urge the Committee to pass Assembly Bill 403.

Feel free to contact us if there are questions about the issue.