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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.