

Algoma
Arcadia
Argyle
Bangor
Barron
Belmont
Benton
Black Earth
Black River Falls
Bloomer
Boscobel
Brodhead
Cadott
Cashon
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
Wonevot

TO: Members of the Assembly Energy & Utilities Committee

FROM: Scott J. Meske, Interim Executive Director

DATE: April 2, 2013

RE: **MEUW Support Statement on Assembly Bill 106**

Thank you Chairman Honadel for the opportunity to offer MEUW's support for Assembly Bill 106, relating to the protection of municipal utility customer information. My name is Scott Meske, and I'm the Interim Executive Director for the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin, the trade association that serves all 82 Wisconsin communities that own and operate an electric utility. Combined our utilities distribute about 11 percent of Wisconsin's electric load to nearly 280,000 residential, commercial, industrial and farm customers.

Assembly Bill 106 addresses several key issues for MEUW Member utilities. First, it **clarifies the discrepancy** between PSC Administrative Code Chapter 113 and Wisconsin Open Records laws. Current PSC code requires utilities to not release identifiable customer information. Under Wisconsin Open Records Statutes, local government entities must comply with the procedures for supplying publicly releasable information.

Secondly, this legislation protects the privacy of municipal utility customers; **placing us on par** with the other regulated utilities in Wisconsin because investor owned utility customer information is already protected under PSC Chapter 113.

Utility customers, whether they are served by investor owned utility or a municipal utility ought to have assurance that their information they provide to their electric provider remains confidential. Assembly Bill 106 is a simple clarification that provides such protection.

We appreciate the Chairman's efforts, along with Representative Kahl to demonstrate that good legislation doesn't have to be partisan. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to present to you today, I ask the Committee pass AB106, and look forward to working with you and the Committee this legislation.