



725 Lois Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
(608) 837-2263
fax: (608) 837-0206
www.meuw.org

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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.