Wisconsin Coalition on Worker's Compensation

To: Members, Wisconsin Legislature

From:

Patrick Osborne John Mielke

Aggregate Producers of Wisconsin Associated Builders & Contractors

Matthew Banaszynski Nickolas George

Independent Insurance Agents of Wisconsin Midwest Food Processors Association

Bill G. Smith Chet Gerlach
National Federation of Independent Business Skiing Wisconsin

Brad Boycks Mark O'Connell

Wisconsin Builders Association Wisconsin Counties Association

Brian Dake Andy Franken

Wisconsin Independent Businesses, Inc Wisconsin Insurance Alliance

Scott Suder Edward Lump

Wisconsin Paper Council Wisconsin Restaurant Association

Scott Manley Patrick Goss

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association

James Buchen, WMC/Employer Member William Skewes

Wis. Worker's Compensation Advisory Council Wisconsin Utilities Association

Subject: Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Advisory Council Bill

Date: January 30, 2014

We are members of a new coalition, the Wisconsin Coalition on Worker's Compensation, formed to advance the interests of Wisconsin employers on worker's compensation matters before the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Advisory Council, the Legislature, the Administration, and state agencies.

We support the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Advisory Council consensus process and support the "agreed bill" developed by the Council and endorsed at their January 23, 2014, meeting.

As many of you know, employers typically pay more for health care services provided under the worker's compensation system than group health insurers pay for comparable injuries and illnesses, with the greatest differences found in specialty areas such as surgery and radiology. The Council bill will lead to a medical fee schedule by June 30, 2015, putting us in line with the vast majority of states that have worker's compensation cost controls.

Consistent with past Council bills, this proposal represents a package of negotiated provisions mutually agreed to by labor and management. We recognize there are some tradeoffs in the form of benefit enhancements, but overall this bill is a net cost savings for employers.

We request your support for the consensus worker's compensation legislation and we look forward to meeting with members of the Legislature and others on this vitally important issue.

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