

# Reduce Delays with More Partners

**Gain more plan review partners by repealing participation fees charged to municipalities by the Department of Safety and Professional Services**

December 10, 2018

The Alliance for Regulatory Coordination recommends that construction delays throughout Wisconsin be reduced by utilizing more municipal plan review partners. To that end, the ARC recommends changes in state law.

Two months has been the average wait time for commercial building plan review services from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services over the past half year.

The Alliance for Regulatory Coordination believes that plan review services could be provided in much less time if more municipalities conducted state-level plan review. ARC members believe that current laws requiring municipalities to pay participation fees are a deterrent to municipal involvement in state-level plan review.

We recommend the next Budget Bill include repeal of statute sections 101.12 (3g) (d) 1., and 101.12 (3m) (e), which require that certain municipalities pay participation fees to the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

Alliance members believe that participation fees assessed on appointed agents and 2<sup>nd</sup> class cities inhibit customer access to the timely plan review services provided by municipalities.

Municipal authorization and administration of such pass-through fees is burdensome and time consuming for municipalities. Under state law, local code officials must obtain both revenue and spending authority, from their elected officials, for this type of pass-through fee.

For fiscal years 2014 - 2016, participation fees paid to the DSPS averaged \$85,000 annually, making up only one-half percent of the revenue deposited into the Safety and Building Operations Appropriation. That fee revenue is inconsequential and unnecessary in light of two facts: 1) during those three years, less than 80% of all S&B revenue was spent; and 2) the DSPS expects a balance of over ten million dollars in the S&B appropriation at the end of FY 2019.

Municipalities are under tremendous pressure to fund needed services. Ending participation fees for appointed agent municipalities and 2<sup>nd</sup> class cities would be a small but significant action by the administration and legislature.

We believe the repeal of participation fees will result in a significant increase in the number of municipal plan review partners. The addition of such partners will reduce the heavy DSPS plan review and inspection workload; thereby reducing delays to Wisconsin's building construction industries and helping to boost Wisconsin's overall economy.

*The Alliance for Regulatory Coordination is a consortium of 17 organizations involved in building design, construction and regulatory services. Alliance membership consists of business, labor, advocacy, professional and governmental groups; numbering thousands of members, all committed to promoting more coordinated and efficient regulatory services for citizens and businesses of Wisconsin. Learn more about the Alliance at [www.4ARC.org](http://www.4ARC.org). See next page for a list of ARC members.*

# Alliance for Regulatory Coordination

## **Classic Members**

International Assoc. of Electrical Inspectors, Wisconsin Chapter  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, WI State Conf.  
National Electrical Contractors Association, Wisconsin Chapter  
Northwest Wisconsin Building Inspectors Association  
Plumbers Union Local 75  
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors, Wisconsin Association  
Water Quality Association of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Code Officials Alliance  
Wisconsin Electrical Trades Council  
Wisconsin Fire Protection Coalition  
Wisconsin State Fire Chief's Association  
Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association

## **Associate Members**

Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin  
Southwestern Wisconsin Building Inspectors Association  
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association  
Wisconsin Propane Gas Association

## **Supporting Members**

International Code Council