



February 16, 2011

The Honorable Robin Vos
Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee
Room 309 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

The Honorable Albert Darling
Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee
Room 317 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Co-Chair Vos and Co-Chair Darling,

I respectfully urge you to slow down the "special session" to consider Governor Walker's bill ignores the deficit and attacks public workers.

The proposal you're moving on behalf of Governor Walker would tie the hands of working families in dealing with the economic downturn. It will also thwart the will of the people who want accountable leadership focused on job creation.

This massive bill was formally introduced on Monday, had a hearing on Wednesday abruptly adjourned with hundreds of people still waiting to speak, and is expected to be voted on Thursday morning. You need to allow more time for the public, media, and other lawmakers to review the bill.

Democrats have not tried to silence the voices of working people and taxpayers like you have. Democrats have been holding a true, open public hearing that has continued since you halted the Joint Finance hearing. So far more than 812 people have spoken against the bill and more than 1,232 have registered against the bill. We have now had more than 31 hours of testimony on the bill and more taxpayers are waiting to have their voice heard.

I submit the following to you, which I believe should sound familiar.

"This bill was negotiated in private meetings, and you are about to ram them through the Legislature with little or no scrutiny. Transparency is critical to a clean and open government. If a [special session] is to occur, we should provide maximum transparency to protect the taxpayers.¹"

As you are aware the Legislative Fiscal Bureau has indicated a budget repair bill may not even be necessary. The only reasons a bill might be necessary are to address the

¹ Darling-Vos Letter from December 2, 2010

patient's compensation fund and the reciprocity payment to Minnesota. This bill addresses neither.

As you said in December 2010, *taxpayers deserve maximum transparency*, so please slow down this reckless legislative process and allow time for contemplative review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terese Berceau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terese Berceau
State Representative
76th Assembly District