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January 19, 2010

Senator Julie Lassa
Chair, Senate Committee on Economic Development
State Capitol, Room 232 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Re: AB271

Dear Senator Lassa:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council (WIGICC), I want to thank you and the other members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development for your interest in AB271. As a supplement to my written correspondence dated January 6, and the WIGICC testimony provided at the January 7 public hearing by Jon Schwichtenberg, I would like to suggest some specific changes to AB271 for your consideration.

Regarding "Map Disclaimer"

Many WIGICC constituents are still uncertain what specific issue the general map disclaimer requirements in AB271 attempt to resolve. Therefore, WIGICC prefers that language associated with the general map disclaimer be dropped completely from the bill. This includes language in Sections 2, 101 and 102. Removing the general map disclaimer requirements would in no way affect the intent of other proposed language (Sections 90 and 91) that requires specific state agency programs to use a disclaimer on maps attached to recorded documents.

If a general map disclaimer is required, WIGICC would support the use of a map disclaimer on maps that are produced and attached to documents recorded with the Register of Deeds by non-surveyors. This would help eliminate potential confusion between these maps and sealed/stamped maps produced and recorded by professional land surveyors.

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Regarding Definition of the "Practice of Professional Land Surveying"

Language in some of the subsections in Section 65 is ambiguous, making it difficult to differentiate between activities that require a surveying license and those that do not. These subsections should be clarified to describe activities that require a surveying license, and made consistent with language in other subsections. For example, the phrase "...the determination of the location of the boundaries of..." is used in 443.01(6s)(a)(1), while "...for the purpose of establishing the boundaries of..." is used in 443.01(6s)(a)(4).

WIGICC would also like the definitions and specific references to cartographic, construction and geodetic surveying taken completely out of the bill. As the committee heard during the public hearing, these definitions encompass many activities that do not require a surveying license, and simply add to the confusion and possible misinterpretation.

WIGICC would also like to see the following verbiage added to the bill: "Preparing maps that depict surveyed legal property and parcel boundaries, surveyed points, and surveyed measurements are exempt from licensure if the map is intended to be referential, representational, or diagrammatic portrayals of existing source documents."

Thank you very much for your consideration of our suggestions. I am taking the liberty of copying in the two senators who represent Eau Claire County, Senators Vinehout and Kreitlow, both of whom serve on the Committee on Economic Development.

Sincerely,



Gregg Moore
WIGICC Chair

c: Senator Kathleen Vinehout
Senator Pat Kreitlow
WIGICC members