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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEA Urges Passage of Contracting Reform Bill

MADISON – Legislators are urged to approve a bill to improve the cost effectiveness of work done by the State of Wisconsin. “This contracting reform bill has the ability to restore public confidence in a process that seems to have more to do with politics than saving money,” said State Engineering Association (SEA) President Mark Klipstein.

“SEA supports legislation that would require state agencies to do a ‘uniform and complete cost analysis’ before work is contracted out. In a time of tight budgets, the state can no longer afford to assume the private sector is always cheaper,” added Klipstein.

Assembly Bill AB-105 and its companion bill Senate Bill SB-56 requires that cost be considered when the decision is made to contract for services, such as engineering services.

The impetus behind this commonsense measure was several DOT economic analyses that demonstrated that outsourcing engineering services costs the taxpayers more than it would have cost if state employees had performed the work. The most recent report confirmed that taxpayers pay more than 18 percent more when engineering work is contracted out.