



State Engineering Association
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November 18, 2010

Governor-Elect Scott Walker
Office of the Governor-Elect
17 West Main Street, Suite 301
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor-Elect Walker,

The State Engineering Association of Wisconsin congratulates you on your election as governor and wishes you well as you begin dealing with the critical problems facing our state.

The State Engineering Association is the collective bargaining unit for about 1,100 state government engineering and technical professionals serving in numerous state agencies. The Association seeks constructive engagement with your administration and legislators as everyone rolls up their sleeves to improve our state's economy, create new jobs and serve hardworking taxpayers.

Our Association has made it a priority to identify waste and mismanagement in state government, working on a nonpartisan basis to point out inefficiencies, especially with respect to the outsourcing of public works.

You should be aware that the state has in the past eight years moved in the direction of outsourcing more and more public work to private consultants. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau reported earlier this year that consulting contracts for transportation engineering alone soared from \$116.3 million in 2004 to \$252 million in 2009.

While that consulting budget exploded; less work per tax dollar was getting done. An analysis by the state Department of Transportation early in the Doyle administration showed that state engineers were at least 18 percent more cost-effective in delivering such services, compared to private consultants. That conclusion has been confirmed in several succeeding studies, yet the trend toward increased private consulting has continued.

Our members are also taxpayers and voters. They believe in cost-effective government that serves the citizens of Wisconsin in the most efficient manner. They are highly trained and professional public servants who work in every corner of the state, often coming into contact with citizens, local officials and institutions.

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We therefore suggest that, in your listening sessions with citizens, businesses and others, you take time to listen to our members. We hope your administration will regard the State Engineering Association as a sounding board and repository of expertise as you weigh critical budget and policy options.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Klipstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Mark Klipstein
President
State Engineering Association