



State Engineering Association
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Dear Representative Schneider,

Thank you Marlin for meeting with the members of the State Engineering Association (SEA) on Wednesday, April 22.

During our meeting we expressed our concerns regarding the contracting out of State services that could be performed by State employees at a cheaper cost.

The next step would be to actually use the results of the cost benefit analysis to decide whether or not to contract out the States services. Currently contracting out State services at a higher cost is being justified by a statement saying, "We don't have enough state forces to do the work". With a multi-billion dollar State budget deficit, that does not seem like the right answer. That is what the State has been doing for years now. *The State needs to fill the existing State employee vacancies they are currently maintaining instead of contracting out the same work that could be done by those vacant positions to consultants at a higher cost.* There are cases where we have consultants overseeing consultants. Talk about the fox guarding the henhouse. SEA provided you with a copy of the Act 89 Report done by Professor Edward Beimborn that further illustrates the detrimental aspects of contracting out so much of the States work to consultants. *SEA would like to see a capping of the amount of State agency work that can be outsourced to say a maximum of 30%.*

Another major concern we have is the lack of meaningful contract bargaining by OSER regarding the 2007-2009 SEA Contract. SEA members have been working without a new contract for 22 months now and there is still no end in sight. There have been 16 bargaining sessions so far, and little has changed since OSER made its first proposal. It has been a take it or leave it tact by OSER. OSER's proposal to SEA is approximately 2% less (they want to take back a benefit worth approx. 2%) than what the other unions have already received. SEA has requested to go to mediation and fact-finding to forward the bargaining process. OSER has refused to use these measures. They have instead responded that if we don't accept what they have offered, that the compensation fund that would have paid for the raises might not be available after July 1, 2009. *We would appreciate you contacting OSER to request that they use the Mediation and Fact-Finding options to get the 2007-2009 SEA Contract settled.* It took three and a half years to settle our previous contract. The States bargaining process is broken. The State should be setting the example regarding bargaining instead of showing how not to bargain.

I would appreciate a written response regarding the three bolded and italicized requests above. Please contact me at 715-421-8087 (Work), or 715-421-3365 (Home) if you have any questions.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Wi. Rapids SEA Section
Thomas Peronto, Wi. Rapids Section SEA President
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