



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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December 19, 2006

The Honorable Herb Kohl  
United States Senator

The Honorable Russ Feingold  
United States Senator

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
United States Representative  
Congressional District 1

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Representative  
Congressional District 2

The Honorable Ron Kind  
United States Representative  
Congressional District 3

The Honorable Gwendolyn Moore  
United States Representative  
Congressional District 4

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner  
United States Representative  
Congressional District 5

The Honorable Thomas Petri  
United States Representative  
Congressional District 6

The Honorable David Obey  
United States Representative  
Congressional District 7

The Honorable Steve Kagen  
United States Representative-Elect  
Congressional District 8

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Last year, Congress enacted the REAL ID law, with the goal of strengthening our security efforts and combating terrorism. While the goals are important, Congress' action in achieving them simply missed the target. The result is a law that may not do what was intended, but will force law-abiding citizens to endure major headaches at DMV centers and higher fees for license renewals.

The new Congress must fix the problem the last Congress created. Unless they do, motorists will be in for a rude awakening in 2008 as they face new fees, fewer DMV locations, longer lines, less convenience, and more frustration with no real guarantee that their troubles will actually be worthwhile in the form of added security.

U.S. Senators Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and John Sununu (R-NH) recently introduced S. 4117, the "Identification Security Enhancement Act of 2006," to repeal and replace the REAL ID Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-13). This bill will likely be considered by the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has estimated the state's costs for the first two years of implementation of REAL ID requirements at nearly \$21 million. This is an unfunded federal mandate – a \$21 million hit to Wisconsin motorists. As a result, Wisconsin motorists may be forced to pay an additional \$10 federal security verification fee for all driver license and identification card products.

Without this \$10 federal security fee, Wisconsin has no way to pay the costs to implement the REAL ID law. It can be avoided only if the new Congress acts quickly to strengthen the REAL ID law and provide funding to pay for it.

Wisconsin motorists will not be alone in facing significantly higher costs. A September 2006 report issued by the National Governors Association (NGA), National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), and American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) estimates REAL ID implementation costs nationally at more than \$11 billion over the first five years of implementation.

WisDOT supports any effort to make the REAL ID provisions less onerous financially, including a more realistic implementation schedule. This could be accomplished either through federal interpretation of the existing REAL ID provisions or through amending the law. At a minimum, the interpretation of current law or a revised law would need to do the following:

- Allow at least an eight-year period to enroll all state driver license and identification card holders once rules are final. (Eight years is the current renewal cycle in Wisconsin.)
- Require that rules be developed in a timely fashion and that states be given a reasonable period of time to implement the final rules. (Also, allow a negotiated rule-making process, involving DMV officials from various states.)
- Allow states to utilize any type of secure license card stock, rather than requiring the use of a single source polycarbonate license card stock, which is extremely expensive and requires a unique production process.

I respectfully request your assistance in helping to ensure that the implementation of more secure licensing standards in Wisconsin will be logistically possible and will not result in increased costs borne by Wisconsin taxpayers. I am happy to discuss specific aspects of the current REAL ID law and prospects for improving it with you or your staff at any time.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Busalacchi  
Secretary

cc: Governor Jim Doyle  
DOA Secretary Stephen Bablitch