

Community Leaders Support the University of Wisconsin System

May 7, 2003

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance:

Senator Alberta Darling
Senator Robert Welch
Senator Mary Lazich
Senator Ted Kanavas
Senator Sheila Harsdorf
Senator Scott Fitzgerald
Senator Russell Decker
Senator Gwendolynne Moore

Representative Dean Kaufert
Representative Michael Huebsch
Representative David Ward
Representative Dan Meyer
Representative Jeff Stone
Representative Kitty Rhoades
Representative Spencer Coggs
Representative Dan Schooff

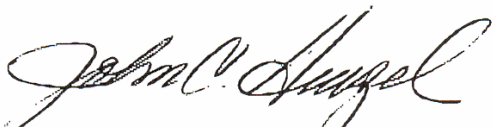
Shortly you will be voting on a matter of great importance to us – the University of Wisconsin System budget for 2003-05. We are very much aware of the state's fiscal constraints but we also know that the university is critical to Wisconsin's economy.

Every state dollar spent on the UW leverages an additional two dollars that are equally important to Wisconsin's economic health. The overall annual impact of the university is 28,000 graduates to work in our state economy and \$10 billion dollars or 5% of Wisconsin's economic productivity. This represents "brain gain" jobs for Wisconsin that we can't afford to lose. We work closely with the universities in our communities and we know first-hand how important they are to our economic vitality. Please hold the line and go no deeper than the \$250 million in cuts proposed by Governor Doyle for 2003-05. This is far more than the university's "fair" share.

We also urge you to support the tuition increases, without which these cuts to the university will be truly dire. Even after these increases, UW tuition will remain low compared to neighboring universities – and we support the added financial aid to make these increases affordable to the state's poorest students.

As alumni, employers, public officials, and business leaders, we know that balancing budgets is not easy, but we also know what a tremendous value our university system is for the money spent. We strongly urge you to support the university in your upcoming vote. A stronger economy and brighter future for us all will be your reward.

Sincerely,



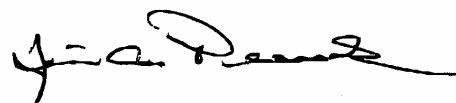
John Heugel
Partner
Liebmann, Conway, Olejniczak & Jerry, S.C.
Green Bay



Theodore Richards
President
Strand Associates, Inc.
Madison



Susan Finco
President
Leonard & Finco Public Relations
Green Bay



Jill Pelisek
President
UW – Milwaukee Foundation
River Hills



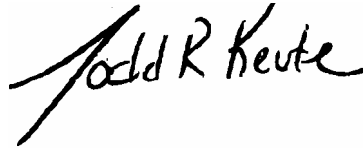
Daniel Gelatt
President
NMT Corporation
La Crosse



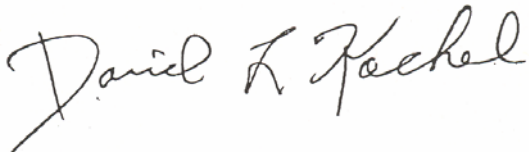
Mary Jurmain
Chief Executive Officer and President
Realityworks
Eau Claire



Karl Zimmermann
President, Board of Visitors, UW Colleges
Realtor/Builder, Franz & Zimmermann Homes
Marshfield



Todd Keute
Publisher
Daily Telegram
Superior



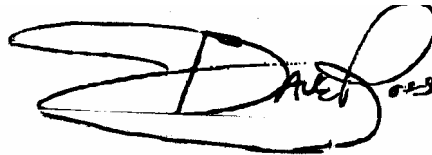
David Kachel
Owner/Manager
DLK Enterprises
Whitewater



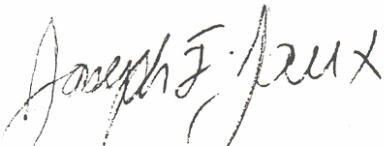
Lolita Kachel
Owner/Manager
DLK Enterprises
Whitewater



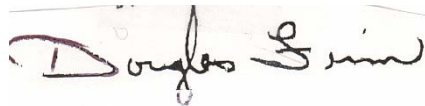
Eileen Nickels
Councilperson, Platteville City Council
Agent, Bell Real Estate & Auction



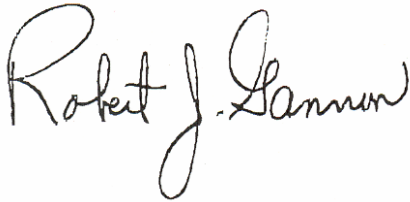
Dave Ross
Mayor
City of Superior



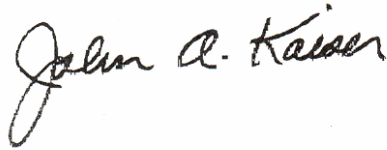
Joseph Laux
Mayor
City of Menasha



Douglas Finn
Chairperson
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Superior



Robert J. Gannon
President
Marinette School Board



Jack Kaiser
Attorney
Schrage & Kaiser
Eau Claire



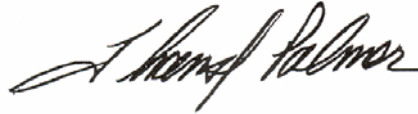
Leon Berenschot
President
WI Associated County Extension Committees
Glenwood City



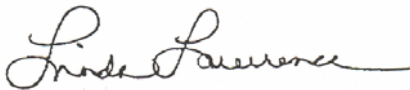
George Nelson
Executive Vice President
Evening Telegram Company
Madison



Hooshang Zeyghami
President
Central Wisconsin Engineers & Architects
Weston



Thomas J. Palmer
President
First National Bank of River Falls



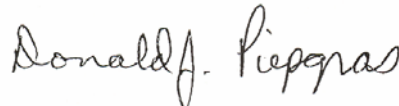
Linda Lawrence
Mayor
City of Wausau



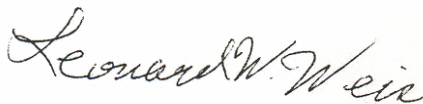
John Neis
CFA, Senior Partner
Venture Investors
Madison



James Van Eyck
Administrator
New Economy Workforce (NEW) Coalition
Wausau



Donald Piegras
President
St. Croix Valley Natural Gas Co.
River Falls



Leonard W. Weis, Ph. D.
Emeritus Professor of Geology
UW-Fox Valley
Menasha



Keith Summers
Senior Resource Center Manager
Foth & Van Dyke Associates, Inc.
Green Bay



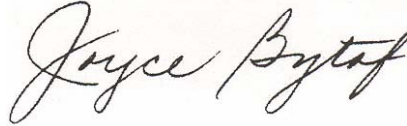
Roy F. Valitchka
Owner
Protective Coating Specialists, Inc.
Appleton



Roger Van Vreede
President
Van Vreede TV & Appliance
Appleton



Lisa N. Weiner
Executive Director/President
St. Elizabeth Hospital Community Foundation
Appleton



Joyce Bytof
President
Coldwell Banker, The Real Estate Group, Inc.
Appleton

cc: Governor Jim Doyle
Speaker John Gard
Senator Mary Panzer
Senator Jon Erpenbach
Representative Jim Kreuser