



TO: Members, Joint Conference Committee

FROM: Amy Boyer, Wisconsin Economic Development Association
Brad Boycks, Wisconsin Builders Association
Tom Larson, Wisconsin Realtors Association
Mike Mooney, National Association of Industrial and Office Properties

DATE: September 13, 2007

RE: **Support for the Economic Development Exemption for Class B
Liquor License Quotas**

The Wisconsin Economic Development Association, Wisconsin Realtors Association and the Wisconsin Builders Association strongly support the economic development exemption to the state-imposed limit on the number of Class B liquor licenses a municipality may issue. There are a number of communities around the state that are at or near their quota and have no liquor licenses available to issue.

Many communities across the State of Wisconsin are undergoing significant central city redevelopments and are trying to accommodate restaurants that could anchor mixed use development projects. Because of the Class B liquor license quota, communities are forced to forgo these types of economic development projects and are losing out on economic development growth opportunities.

We support the exemption of a “full-service” restaurant from the limit on the number of liquor licenses that a municipality can issue. A full service restaurant is defined as an establishment where meals are prepared, served and sold for consumption and in which the sale of alcohol beverages accounts for 50 percent or less of the restaurant’s gross receipts. Under this exemption, the local community would maintain the authority to issue or not issue the requested Class B liquor license. We believe that the local community is in the best position to decide if a particular proposal is appropriate or not.

This approach is consistent with our efforts to provide communities with the tools to facilitate growth and redevelopment opportunities.

For further information please contact Amy Boyer – boyer@hamilton-consulting.com; Brad Boycks – bboycks@wisbuild.org; Tom Larson – tlarson@wra.org; or Mike Mooney – mmooney@mlgcommercial.com.