



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 · MADISON, WI 53708

May 8, 2017

Hon. Frank H. Easterbrook  
Room 2746  
Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse  
219 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: 16-2586

Honorable Judge Easterbrook,

Over the past three days there have been two serious, head on collision accidents on Highway 23. Seven people were sent to the hospital, two of which sustained life-threatening injuries. Both accidents occurred on the very stretch of highway that the Legislature voted to expand to 4 lanes in 1999, has been held up in court since 2015, and is currently under your review. The case is 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, Inc v. Wisconsin Department of Trans, et al, case number 16-2586.

Unfortunately, the news of serious accidents occurring on Highway 23 is far from surprising. "Accident on Highway 23" has become an all too familiar headline in the districts we represent. This two-lane stretch of highway averages an accident every 8 days. Many of these accidents could have been prevented had the expansion project been allowed to proceed.

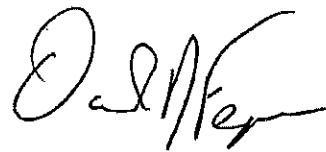
The Highway 23 project is by far the most important issue on our constituents' minds with almost universal support. We continually hear from local residents and the business community about the necessity of this expansion project and their overall safety concerns. Many share their anecdotal stories of near misses, a friend or loved one who has gotten into an accident on 23, or how they avoid the 19 mile stretch at all costs and choose to take less direct county roads for fear of their own safety.

It's been nearly two years since Judge Lynn Adelman halted the Highway 23 expansion project and the case remains under appeal today. A full 4 lane expansion is vital to the safety of our roads and strength of our local economy. On behalf of the hundreds of constituents who have contacted our offices on this issue, we urge you to prioritize this important case. Thank you for your consideration.

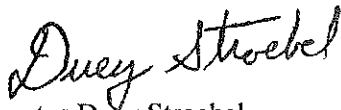
Sincerely,



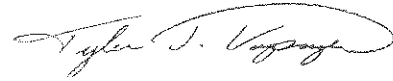
Senator Devin LeMahieu  
9<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Dan Feyen  
18<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Ducey Stroebel  
20<sup>th</sup> Senate District



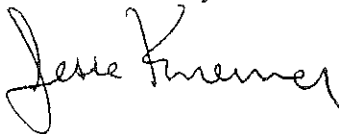
Rep. Tyler Vorpagel  
27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt  
52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Terry Katsma  
26<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Jesse Kremer  
59<sup>th</sup> Assembly District