



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

April 4, 2012

Major General Donald P. Dunbar  
The Adjutant General  
Department of Military Affairs  
P.O. Box 8111  
Madison, WI 53708-8111

Dear Major General Dunbar,

We are writing in response to your request to extend, from April 1, 2012 to April 16, 2012, the submission date for the proposed contracts for the Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Response Network.

As you know, when the Joint Committee on Finance discussed and took action on the Division of Emergency Management's contracts late last year, several Committee members expressed concerns about the proposed significant funding cuts to the hazmat teams. As well, many Committee members were uncomfortable with the plan to restructure the hazmat teams, as that plan was strongly opposed by many first responders, businesses, and emergency response personnel in our communities.

While there has been an increased need for emergency response services in many parts of the state, fire departments and hazmat teams have been forced to do more with less, and the proposed contracts would only exacerbate that problem. Furthermore, slashing funding for hazmat contracts will discourage economic growth and jeopardize public safety. Maintaining critical investments in public safety, we're sure you agree, must be a top priority.

Given these concerns, the Joint Committee on Finance instructed the Division to come back to the Committee with new contracts by April 1, 2012.

The Committee's co-chairs have now granted your request for a two-week extension. It is our understanding that local response teams and key stakeholders still have not seen draft contracts, even though these contracts are now due to the Committee in a matter of days. It is also our understanding that the plan the Division intends to bring back before the Committee is substantially similar to the plan presented last fall, and still contains a dramatic restructuring of the response teams and additional cuts in funding.

Given these uncertainties, **we would like to ask that you instead utilize the option available to you to extend the current contracts with the eight existing regional teams through June 30, 2013.** This will allow the Division to bring forward a plan that adequately ensures regional preparedness and a reliable response network, and that earns support from the highly experienced emergency response personnel who protect our communities.

We would like a written response from you indicating whether you will request that the Joint Committee on Finance extend the current hazmat contracts through June 30, 2013. Do not hesitate to contact any of us directly to discuss this matter further.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



**Rep. Cory Mason**  
62<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



**Sen. Bob Jauch**  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District



**Sen. Jennifer Shilling**  
32<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



**Sen. Lena Taylor**  
4<sup>th</sup> Senate District

- cc. Gov. Scott Walker  
Rep. Robin Vos & Sen. Alberta Darling, Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Finance  
Steve Hansen, City of Racine Fire Chief  
Craig Ford, President, Firefighters Local 321  
Jim Rigstad, Fire Chief, Superior Fire Department  
Keith Kesler, Director, Douglas County Emergency Management  
Gregg Cleveland, Fire Chief, City of La Crosse  
Brian Satula, Administrator, Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator  
Jason Culotta, Director, Tax & Transportation Policy, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce