

Lisa Subeck

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

To: Assembly Committee on Local Government
From: Representative Lisa Subeck
Date: February 7, 2018
Subject: Testimony in support of Assembly Bill 836, relating to population standard for populous counties.

Chairman Brooks and members of the Assembly Committee on Local Government:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 836, which is a technical bill that will update references in state statutes to reflect current population numbers and prevent numerous laws designed specifically for Milwaukee County from being applicable to Dane County.

In the next census, Dane County will surpass 500,000 residents and in turn be subject to the laws the legislature has specifically passed for Milwaukee who for almost a century has been the only county to have over 500,000 people.

Wisconsin statutes contain over 200 references to a county with a population of 500,000 or more. Without a change in state law those laws not designed with Dane County in mind will suddenly be applicable.

AB 836 updates those references from 500,000 to 750,000, to ensure that the status quo continues for the laws as they apply to Dane County while making no changes to what in current law applies to Milwaukee County. It makes no changes to current powers or duties of county and local government in Wisconsin.

The legislation is supported by the Dane County Cities & Villages Association, the City of Madison, and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

Thank you again for your time and your consideration of Assembly Bill 836. I would be happy to answer any questions.

78TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT