

**Racine Water and
Wastewater Utilities**

Keith E. Haas, P.E.
General Manager



City of Racine, Wisconsin

Michael L. Gitter, P.E.
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September 29, 2008

Senator Robert Jauch, Chair
5271 South Maple Drive
Poplar, WI 54864

SUBJECT: Emergency Management and Continuity of Government

Dear Senator and Committee Members:

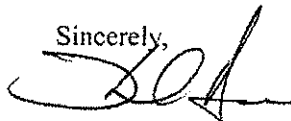
As the General Manger of one of the largest water and wastewater utilities in the State of Wisconsin, I applaud your efforts to recodify the statutes relating to emergency management in Wisconsin. This effort is not taken lightly. In 1993, while employed by the U.S.Army Corps of Engineers, I was the Flood Area Engineer responsible for the Des Moines River basin when the Des Moines waterworks plant was flooded and the State Capitol of Iowa was without water for over a week. Mutual aid from neighboring cities, as well as support from the federal government, was key in keeping the City of Des Moines, Iowa functioning.

Racine has done a thorough Pandemic Bird Flu Plan of Action and has beefed up the security of its water and wastewater utilities since September 11. We have also revised our Emergency Response plans for both utilities. I have been watching from the sidelines recently as Wisconsin has been tackling this issue of mutual aid agreements. Several models have been presented and proposed to benefit the field of Public Works organizations throughout the State. I am especially intrigued by the WisWARN program that has been presented at several state public works gatherings. The WisWARN model has been used successfully in over thirty states that I am aware of. I believe the WisWARN program provides the best fit for those of us in the public works arena that are especially involved in the water and wastewater industry in Wisconsin.

It is my intent to promote and recommend to my Water and Wastewater Commissions that Racine becomes a member of WisWARN in the near future. Racine has participated in several mutual aid activities in the past twenty years on an informal basis. Having a formalized program on the shelf, ready to put into action, will be an asset to Racine and other communities when the call for assistance is initiated.

I would be willing to provide review of your proposed code revisions and other recommendations as they are developed. Being a part of such important legislation that can actually make a difference in the lives of Wisconsin citizens would be an honor.

Sincerely,



Keith E. Haas, P.E.
General Manager