



To: Members of the Wisconsin Assembly

From: Edward Lump, President of the Wisconsin Tourism Federation

Re: **Opposition to AB 31**

Date: April 28, 2009

The Wisconsin Tourism Federation is a lobbying coalition of trade and professional associations and organizations actively involved in Wisconsin's tourism industry. The Federation serves as Wisconsin tourism's unified voice in government relations. The Wisconsin tourism industry contributes over \$12.8 billion in sales to the state's economy.

**The Federation is unified in its opposition to AB 31.**

The current administrative law process gives employees the right to file discrimination claims through the Equal Rights Division (ERD) of DWD. Once ERD completes an investigation and makes a ruling, both the employee and the employer have the right to contest the ruling in court. **No one has shown that this process is flawed or a change is needed.**

AB 31 encourages DWD and plaintiffs to take discrimination claims to circuit court and eschew settlements through the administrative process. This will add tremendously to the costs for everyone involved: the employers, the employees, and the taxpayers.

We find the ten percent surcharge on damages awarded that would be paid to DWD particularly egregious. It is a reward for avoiding their job and clogging the court system.

Finally, has anyone realized that there is a severe recession? This is no time to put laws in place that will increase the stress on the small, labor intensive businesses that account for the vast majority of tourism sales. This is no time to put laws in effect that will undoubtedly raise insurance rates and might actually force some property & causality insurance companies to stop insuring tourism businesses.

We urge you to help defeat AB 31.

**Members**

American Automobile  
Association

Association of Wisconsin  
Tourism Attractions

Golf Course Owners of  
Wisconsin

Outdoor Advertising  
Association of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Association of  
Campground Owners

Wisconsin Association of  
Convention and Visitors  
Bureaus

Wisconsin Bed and Breakfast  
Association

Wisconsin Dells Visitors and  
Convention Bureau

Wisconsin Innkeepers  
Association

Wisconsin Petroleum  
Marketers and Convenience  
Store Association

Wisconsin Restaurant  
Association