

730 Wisconsin Avenue
RACINE, WISCONSIN

COUNTY EXECUTIVE WILLIAM L. McREYNOLDS

PHONE: 262-636-3273 FAX: 262-636-3549

E-Mail: William.McReynolds@goRacine.org

April 14, 2009

Representative Robert Turner Chair, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice Room 223 North, State Capitol P.O. Box 8953 Madison, WI 53708-8953

Re: Assembly Bill 192

## Dear Chairman Turner:

I am writing in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 192, which would make a battery to a highway construction or maintenance worker a Class I felony. I want to thank you, as well as Representative Vos, Representative Kerkman, and Senator Lehman, for introducing this important legislation.

Highway construction and maintenance is one of the principal responsibilities of Wisconsin local governments. Well maintained roads are essential to economic activity, community quality of life, and, above all, public safety. Local government employees and employees of contractors who perform road construction and maintenance should not have to worry that they will be subjected to violence while engaged in this vital work. They need the special protection that AB 192 will afford them.

Especially at a time of increased highway construction and maintenance, this bill will help protect our highway workers from persons who would harm them and, by doing so, would harm all of us. I urge your committee to take quick, positive action on it.

Sincerely,

William L. McReynolds

County Executive

Copies to: Racine County Legislative Delegation

Jean Jacobson, Norway Town Chair