January 5, 2011

Senator Scott Fitzgerald
Senate Majority Leader
201 South, State Capitol
Madison WI 53707

Representative Jeff Fitzgerald
Speaker of the Assembly
211 West, State Capitol
Madison WI 53708

HAND DELIVERED

Dear Majority Leader Fitzgerald and Speaker Fitzgerald,

We write today to urge you to reconsider your recent actions to retain outside, exclusive legal counsel for Republicans in the Senate and Assembly for purposes of legislative redistricting.

At our inaugural just this Monday the Governor and you both spoke of working together, focusing on jobs and changing business as usual. Yet just minutes after the Senate adjourned, a paper ballot began circulating to provide a blank check for partisan legal counsel exclusive to Republicans. The Assembly Organization Committee acted yesterday to adopt a similar partisan political position.

Your actions raise serious concerns.

We can only conclude from the partisan nature of your actions that your intention is to gerrymander legislative districts to gain an unfair political advantage.

Your actions are counter to the needs of the citizens of this state, who are counting on us to get to work on the issues they care about like jobs and the economy. Instead you have begun the legislative session with raw partisan politics and backroom dealing.

In difficult fiscal times one of your first official actions in the majority is to give a blank check to outside lawyers for redistricting. Rather than continue down this road we ask you to join us in authorizing our Legislative Council to take on additional staff to serve the legislature in a nonpartisan fashion to meet our duty and fashion a redistricting plan.

If you truly are interested in living up to the standards called for by Governor Walker and yourselves in your inaugural speeches, we ask you to rescind your actions and join us in creating a fair, responsible and frugal redistricting process.

Sincerely,

Senator Mark Miller
Senate Democratic Leader

Representative Peter Barca
Assembly Democratic Leader