

DANE COUNTY CITIES' & VILLAGES' ASSOCIATION



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To: Members of the Wisconsin Legislature

From: City of Verona Mayor Jon Hochkammer
City of Middleton Mayor Kurt Sonnentag
City of Stoughton Mayor Donna Olson
Village of DeForest President Judd Blau
City of Verona Administrator Bill Burns

Date: Monday, November 30, 2015

**Re: Oppose Carve-Out for Towns to Withdraw from Dane County Zoning
This Proposal Not Only Punishes Dane County – but Cities & Villages
Please Do Not Co-Sponsor LRB 0212/1**

On behalf of the 19 villages and 8 cities that comprise the membership of the Dane County Cities' & Villages' Association (DCCVA) where approximately 85 percent of the approximate 500,000 residents of Dane County reside, we are writing to express our deep concern over the prospect of legislation allowing towns to withdraw from Dane County zoning. While this may seem to be an isolated change for towns, it will have broad implications for cities and villages in Dane County. Land use issues can be contentious, but this legislation will substantially alter the dynamic.

We are sympathetic to the towns' claim that they have faced challenges in working with Dane County prior to the 2014 compromise the Dane County Towns Association and the Dane County Board reached during the public debate of [2013 AB-661](#). Certainly the DCCVA has had its share of conflicts. However, this proposal will have wide repercussions on issues such as land use, transportation and the efficient provision of municipal services. DCCVA believes this proposal will lead to disputes between cities, villages and towns that will be costly, lengthy and unnecessary intergovernmental boundary disputes for our taxpayers. Such a fundamental alteration in the landscape of municipal growth needs to be made in the context of all the communities affected.

Based on a reference in the co-sponsorship memo "*this is another factor that makes the situation in Dane County uniquely undemocratic*" it would appear the authors may disagree with the Dane County Board's implementation of redistricting from the 2010 census. To be clear, the proposal does nothing to reform Wisconsin's redistricting laws and while it may remove power from Dane County - it will also have negative repercussions for cities and villages.

The cities and villages of this region believe it is biased that towns only in Dane County would in effect be exempted from regional planning oversight, while the Dane County Towns' Association and the Dane County Board would continue to have representatives on the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission and the Lakes and Watershed Commission where they would continue to have direct votes to decide whether or how a city or village will grow in the future.