



NORTHEAST
WISCONSIN
CHAMBERS
COALITION

Fond du Lac Area
Association of Commerce
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Fox Cities Chamber
of Commerce & Industry
PO Box 1855
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Green Bay Area
Chamber of Commerce
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Oshkosh Chamber
of Commerce
120 Jackson St
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N.E.W. CHAMBERS COALITION POSITION STATEMENT

The Chambers of Commerce representing the communities of Fond du Lac, the Fox Cities, Green Bay and Oshkosh are united in their commitment to the following positions. Collectively these organizations represent over 6500 businesses within the Northeast Wisconsin area. These companies currently employ over 250,000 Wisconsin taxpayers.

1. Retention of the Manufacturing and Equipment Exemption

- Wisconsin ranks near the bottom of the 50 states when it comes to offering incentives to companies to maintain a manufacturing presence in the state. The continuation of the M & E exemption, in its present form, is essential if we are to demonstrate any type of support for the jobs manufacturing brings to our State.

2. Control of the Sales Tax

- Absolutely no increase in the current sales tax and no expansion of the sales tax to any other areas or items.

3. Maintenance of Spending Caps

- We believe that due to the current fiscal crisis within Wisconsin it is necessary to maintain the spending caps currently imposed on local school districts and to expand the spending caps to all other local units of government. We further believe that that the Qualified Economic Offer component within the spending caps must also be continued and expanded to include other governing bodies.

4. Requirement to tie all spending shifts from State responsibility to any local unit of government to a compensating reduction in future state revenue.

- As the State continues to wrestle with its fiscal crisis one of our greatest concerns is that the State will shift the responsibility of solving the current funding dilemma to local units of government, school districts, the University system and the Technical Colleges and require them to cut services or face the general public with tax and fee increases. While we do not disagree that this may be an appropriate method of focusing attention on the need and value of certain services it also concerns us that without adequate safeguards the state will find itself with a windfall of money once the economy rebounds and tax collection produces revenues as it did prior to 2002. With this being the case we support fiscal accountability. For every dollar the state shifts to the local units of government or education the state must reduce its ability to generate the same amount of revenue in the future.