



June 22, 2011

Governor Scott Walker
Office of Governor Scott Walker
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

There is no question that we disagree on many issues and we understand that this budget reflects your priorities and vision. You say you desire an open business climate. But this budget chooses giant corporate loopholes and giveaways at a time when services vital to middle-class working families – like job training, health care and quality public education -- are being endangered while your spending actually increases. Worse, it gives a competitive advantage to multi-national companies over those Wisconsin businesses that only operate in this state.

The Republican-led legislature largely agreed with your budget, following your lead and approving most of your budget intact. Working Wisconsin families are deeply disappointed you chose to reward the special interests with \$2.3 billion in corporate loopholes and giveaways over the next decade at a time of alleged frugality.

We strongly disagree with your choice to slash support for public education then siphon off even more for unaccountable taxpayer-funded voucher school raids on taxpayer education dollars. But this is your budget. And while we would like to send a letter requesting that you veto the budget and reform its underlying principles and priorities, we realize that would be pointless.

So I write, as you consider your vetoes, to ask that you veto items that were added with little oversight and appear to be a favors to special interests, as well as a few items so egregious that they undermine the core values of our state and are a contradiction to your past promises:

1. The EITC/Homestead tax increases on seniors trying to stay in their homes and low-wage families because you pledged to balance the budget without raising taxes.
2. The expansion of school choice in Racine, and potentially other communities. This last-minute proposal is poorly constructed. The Racine plan faces huge opposition and appears to be resulting in the first of, perhaps, many court challenges. It drains resources from public schools and it also leads to the appearance that the decision makers are unduly beholden to wealthy special interests who are among the largest funders of Republican campaigns.
3. The one week waiting period for unemployment benefits. When you are also cutting job training at technical colleges, making life more difficult for displaced workers, this adds an extra

layer of cruelty. It serves our communities and our economy to help put these workers back on the job – not kick them when they are already struggling.

I hope you will give these provisions due consideration with your veto pen.

Sincerely,

PETER W. BARCA
Assembly Democratic Leader
64th Assembly District

PWB/mlc

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