

Dear:

As you know, the Mayor of Milwaukee submitted a request to Governor Doyle requesting the City of Milwaukee be designated a workforce development area and that the funding directed toward the Private Industry Council (PIC) be transferred to the Mayors Office of Workforce Development. In the same request, the Mayor indicated his desire to include the remaining municipalities under the jurisdiction of the Mayors Office of Workforce Development.

The proposal disconnects Milwaukee County and the other municipal governments from workforce development initiatives. It also de-funds the partnerships and programs of the Private Industry Council. The Governor has accepted the Mayor's request.

The Governor did, however, ask the State Council of Workforce Investment to accept public comments through March 23, 2007 and subsequently provide a recommendation to the Governor at its next meeting March 27, 2007. I strongly urge you to contact them.

Ultimately, the real question that must be asked is simple: What will the City of Milwaukee do that the PIC does not do now (or cannot do in the future)? I do not believe that anyone has answered that question, thus I believe that we should continue to support the work of the PIC. Unless someone can honestly answer that question, it really begs that question of why we are creating a brand new bureaucracy.

I support the work of the PIC board and staff and hope that we can find a way to have that work continue – in concert with the City of Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Executive