

TOWN OF MEDINA

5529 Box Elder Road
MARSHALL, WI 53559

December 1, 2010

Scott McDonell
Dane County Board Chair
mcdonell@co.dane.wi.us

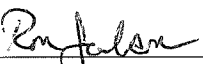
Dear Chairman McDonell,

We are writing regarding the results of the Half Cent Sales Tax Advisory Referendum the Town of Medina held on November 2, 2010. Approximately **seventy five percent of the eligible voters in the Town of Medina cast a ballot** regarding that referendum in that election. Of those casting a ballot **eighty seven percent voted in opposition** to the creation of the one half cent sales tax. Similar results occurred in the other municipalities. Although our governing bodies operate as a representative government it is imperative that elected officials hear the voice of those they serve. There was a clear message that the expansion of the sales tax is not desired.

Following the November 2nd balloting you were reported to have criticized the wording of the referendum. We must bring to your attention the fact that our Town Board as well as many other municipal boards advocated for a county wide referendum regarding this issue. This call fell on deaf ears at the county level and as such each municipality had to make their own expenditure to allow their citizens to be heard on this issue. If the leadership at the county level had chosen to present a referendum to all Dane County citizens that leadership could have assisted in formation of the referendum. It is the failure of county leadership that led to the referendum being held as it was.

An additional issue that has been raised during this process was how money raised from one half cent tax would be utilized. There was a clear indication from County Executive Falk in her correspondence to Representative Baldwin that this tax was to be used to support the proposed rail system extending through the metropolitan Madison area. You have stated that these monies would be used for transportation projects other than the rail. From these two positions it is clear that a plan is not established identifying how that money would be used. We encourage county leadership and the Dane County Regional Transit Authority to develop a detailed comprehensive plan prior to requesting funding in any form. In these challenging economic times we ask that in the creation of a plan the cost and benefit for any form of transportation be given serious consideration.


Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.



Ron Jacobson, Town Supervisor



Timm Kersten, Town Supervisor



Will Behnke, Town Supervisor



Steve Schulz, Town Chair



Sue Zingsheim, Town Supervisor

CC: Dane County Board Members
Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk
Dane County Regional Transit Authority
Administrator Federal Transit Authority