

WISCONSIN COALITION OF ANNUITANTS

1924 Pleasant View Drive Stoughton, WI 53589-1959

(e-mail) KratzWRCP@charter.net telephone 608-873-5694

www.wicoa.org

January 31, 2012

Dear (emailed individually to Representatives, Senators, and Governor):

As you may know, the Wisconsin Coalition of Annuity (WCOA) is a consortium of groups representing more than 146,500 retirees in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). The WCOA monitors the activities of the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) and the State of Wisconsin Investment Board, and meets with representatives of each agency on a monthly basis. Additionally, the WCOA conducts an annual educational conference for the benefit of Wisconsin's WRS participants. Over the years, the WCOA has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Wisconsin's lawmakers, regardless of any partisan affiliation.

In fulfilling its mission to monitor the well-being of the WRS, the WCOA regularly tracks legislation that will impact the retirement system and its annuitants. After reviewing the legislation that has been introduced in this current session, the WCOA Board of Directors unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"The Wisconsin Coalition of Annuity formally opposes any changes to the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS):

- (1) without a complete actuarial study of what the effect of any change might be on present and future members of the WRS and taxpayers;*
- (2) before the completion of the WRS study due to be submitted by June 30, 2012, to the Governor and Joint Committee on Finance;*
- (3) and without a complete review by the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems."*

The WRS provides a wide variety of benefits to the public and the dedicated men and women who serve it. Given its tremendous financial health, we believe it to be a model that should only be altered after sufficient study and consideration. We hope you agree.

In the event you would like to discuss this issue at greater length, or you would like to become more familiar with the WCOA, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 608.273.3840.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

THE WISCONSIN COALITION OF ANNUITANTS

James Palmer, II Chairperson