

January 7, 2003

Governor James Doyle  
115 East  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Doyle,

I am writing in response to the appointments you withdrew today. In our recent discussions regarding this issue, you expressed your understanding of the damage done to Wisconsin's citizen government by the delays in the confirmation process last session and your willingness to work together to repair that damage. As a result, I would hope that you plan on re-nominating these citizens to complete the terms of service they pledged to the State of Wisconsin.

**As you know, the former Majority Leader abused the State Senate's confirmation authority by refusing to consider hundreds of appointments to citizen boards. This inaction weakened the appointment authority of the Governor, reduced public trust and now threatens the continuity of citizen oversight of state government.**

Decades ago, Wisconsin reformed state government by creating oversight boards run by citizens to lessen partisanship and keep the bureaucracy in check. Overlapping terms of citizen membership on these boards was established to ensure continuity, expertise and institutional knowledge regardless of changes in the administration.

During the transition from Governor Earl to Governor Thompson, of 292 appointments received by the Legislature, **all but ten received action by the end of the Legislative Session. Due to the former Leader's scheme last session, 202 citizen volunteers remain unconfirmed.**

**As with every Wisconsin Governor, you have the power and responsibility to appoint your Cabinet Secretaries, and numerous agency administrators to manage virtually all of Wisconsin Government.** You will also have numerous opportunities to make appointments to positions as they become vacant. We respect and support your efforts to fill these positions. I can assure you that as these normal vacancies occur and are filled, the State Senate will provide fair and timely consideration.

However, **the appointment of your professional agency administrators is a very different matter from the volunteer citizen members of the many Boards and Commissions we count on for citizen oversight of**

1/7/03  
page two

**those agencies.** These citizens provide continuity, insight and real world common sense to our government. For this reason, they are not intended to change based only on partisan changes in the Executive.

**No citizen who was appointed prior to the end of the last legislative session, and was unfairly denied timely Senate action, should be prevented from serving his or her full term.** These people deserve an opportunity for proper consideration by the State Senate.

**We must not allow Senator Chvala's abuses to circumvent Wisconsin's tradition of citizen government. The only way his plan can succeed is with your active participation.** To deny these citizens the right to serve their full terms would reward these abuses.

Sincerely,

MARY E. PANZER  
Majority Leader  
Wisconsin State Senate

ALAN J. LASEE  
President  
Wisconsin State Senate

DAVID A. ZIEN  
Assistant Majority Leader  
Wisconsin State Senate