



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON REGULATORY
LICENSING REFORM IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 384**

Chairman Horlacher and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Lucas Vebber and I am the General Counsel and Director of Environmental and Energy Policy at Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC). WMC is the state's chamber of commerce and manufacturers' association. With approximately 3,800 members, we are the largest business trade association in Wisconsin. WMC represents members from all over Wisconsin of all sizes and in every sector of the state's economy. I am submitting these comments today in support of Assembly Bill 384.

This legislation is the next step in what has been a multi-session effort to greatly improve Wisconsin's regulatory process. Under current law, once a regulation is promulgated it stays on the books indefinitely. This legislation changes that, and provides for the expiration of each chapter of the administrative code every seven years, while also creating an expedited promulgation and Legislative review process.

Regulations are a necessary part of government. Agencies need to be able to implement the laws that the Legislature enacts. When they promulgate regulations, they should do so in the most efficient and effective way possible. Many code chapters have been on the books for decades. This legislation would: (1) require state agencies to constantly review their administrative code chapters, (2) establish a new process to quickly re-promulgate chapters they want to keep, and (3) empower the Legislature with oversight of this process to ensure accountability. This greatly increased oversight will ultimately lead to a more efficient code and a better regulatory climate for our state.

Technology is constantly changing, the code should keep up. Earlier this year, Wisconsin was named a top-10 best state for business. Businesses throughout the country and, as we have seen recently, throughout the world, have taken notice of the improvements our state has made. An improving regulatory environment has absolutely played a role in improving our state's business climate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.