

Governor James Doyle
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

January 6, 2009

Dear Governor Doyle:

Attached are more than 660 signatures from members of the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association (WMCA), urging you and members of the Legislature to stop diverting money from the Transportation Fund.

The WMCA is convinced that restoring the integrity of the Transportation Fund is the key to a solid transportation system in this state. We believe that strong measures should be in place to prohibit the use of money from the Transportation Fund for non-transportation purposes.

When heavy vehicle registration fees were increased by 30% (an increase of \$600 for an 80,000 pound combination) late in 2007, it was anticipated that the funds would be used for improvements in Wisconsin highways and bridges. Instead some of the funds were used for non-transportation purposes, bringing the total of diversions to \$1.3 billion over the last six years.

This last year has been a tremendous challenge for our members. In addition to the hefty increase in registration fees, we have endured high fuel prices and now a significant reduction in freight volume because of the stagnate economy.

As you begin deliberations of the 2009-2011 biennial budget, please keep in mind that Wisconsin now ranks in the top ten in the country for both fuel tax and registration fees paid by truckers.

The WMCA is willing to work with you and members of the Legislature to enact a transportation budget that will restore the integrity of the Transportation Fund.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Howells
President

Cc: Senator Decker, Senator Fitzgerald, Rep. Sheridan, Rep Fitzgerald