



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

December 10, 2019

Secretary Designee Caleb Frostman  
201 E. Washington Avenue, A400  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Designee Frostman:

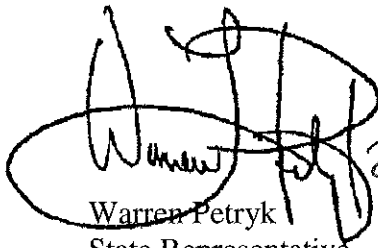
As legislators representing communities near Eau Claire, Appleton and northern Wisconsin it has come to our attention that the Department of Workforce Development is in the process of closing down the Unemployment Insurance Appeals locations in and near our communities. If the Eau Claire and Appleton offices no longer provide in-person hearings, our constituents and businesses will be forced to travel to Madison or Milwaukee for an in-person trial. This change means our constituents would have to drive in excess of 300 miles one-way for an in-person hearing.

These hearings are important because they allow a constituent or business to be physically present to make their case before a neutral judge. An in-person hearing allows the judge to determine the demeanor and credibility of a witness or of one of the parties during a hearing, which can be a determining factor in making a successful case before a judge.

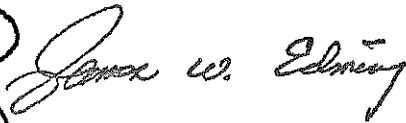
Additionally, in-person hearings are often more useful; for example, if there are many participants involved, a phone call may not be practical. If there is evidence that cannot be copied or provided to the other participants except in person, then a physical hearing is ideal. Similarly, there may be accommodations that can only be made to an individual through a physical hearing.

These closings follow a pattern of public services being concentrated in Dane and Milwaukee counties. These actions are leaving the businesses and constituents that we represent at a disadvantage just because of where they live in Wisconsin. As representatives of citizens that do not reside near Dane and Milwaukee counties, we urge the Department to reconsider the decision to close the Appleton and Eau Claire offices.

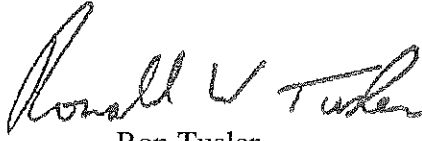
Sincerely,



Warren Petryk  
State Representative  
93<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



James Edming  
State Representative  
87<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Ron Tusler  
State Representative  
3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



Jim Steineke  
State Representative  
5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Gary Tauchen  
State Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Terry Katsma  
State Representative  
26<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Tyler Vorpapel  
State Representative  
27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Gae Magnafici  
State Representative  
28<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rob Stafsholt  
State Representative  
29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



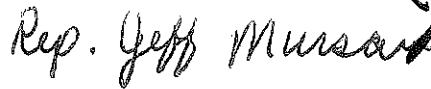
Shannon Zimmerman  
State Representative  
30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rob Swearingen  
State Representative  
34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Mary Felzkowski  
State Representative  
35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Jeff Mursau  
State Representative  
36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Joan Ballweg  
State Representative  
41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



Tony Kurtz  
State Representative  
50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Michael Schraa  
State Representative  
53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



Mike Rohraste  
State Representative  
55<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

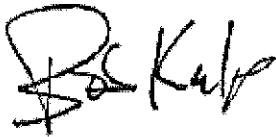


Dave Murphy  
State Representative  
56<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rob Summerfield  
State Representative  
67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Jesse James  
State Representative  
68<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rob Kulp  
State Representative  
69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



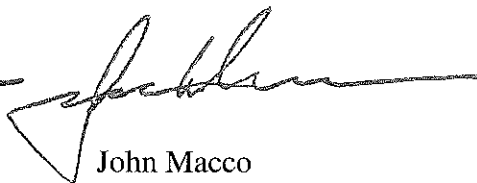
Nancy VanderMeer  
State Representative  
70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Romaine Quinn  
State Representative  
75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Pat Snyder  
State Representative  
85<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



John Macco  
State Representative  
88<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Treig Pronschinske  
State Representative  
92<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



Loren Oldenburg  
State Representative  
96<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

CC:

Governor Evers  
Wisconsin Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council