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To: Members of the Senate Select Committee on Clean Energy
From: Brandon Scholz – Wisconsin Grocers Association
Subject: SB-450/AB-649

The Wisconsin Grocers Association has registered on SB 450/AB 649 with reservations for a number of different reasons. We believe the bill in its current form should not be passed and strongly encourage the Legislature to separate the bill and have the different components be considered on their own merits.

We further believe the current bill does not at all take into consideration the impact on retail businesses in Wisconsin. With utility rates being one of the highest costs in a grocery store, this bill will only increase those costs, not decrease them.

The bill will not create “green jobs” in the grocery industry and in fact, based on the cost and increased expense impact of the bill could in fact cut jobs in the retail sector.

It is extremely disappointing that the Governor’s Task Force on Global Warming did not investigate the impact on the retail sector of Wisconsin’s economy. There are in fact some components of the bill that members of the Wisconsin Grocers Association could support. However, that could only be done in the context of a set of bills rather than one comprehensive catch-all approach.

Over the past year, the Wisconsin Grocers Association has implemented a pilot program called the Green Grocer Certification Program. The pilot project has significantly reduced energy demand and costs in 6 of the 10 stores to date.

- Decreased utility costs by \$200,000/year
- Electricity Saved – 2,389,010 kWh
- Peak Demand Saved – 245 kW
- CO2 Saved – 1,993 Tons

These results came from six grocery stores. If this program had support, imagine the impact when 1,000 grocery stores implemented the program. This was done without government mandates, fees or other limiting factors. And even more disappointing is the fact that the bill is absent of any incentives or components like this that would in fact produce demonstrated results rather than punitive efforts to achieve goals.

The worst thing that could be done is to rush this bill through without a true understanding of the costs to all segments of Wisconsin’s economy and some effort to look beyond far-reaching mandates.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.