

# Freedom Matters

## A Weekly Newsletter

Dane County, Wisconsin

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We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. Yet, when a legislature is in session, no one's life, liberty or property is safe. It's the curse of a democracy. That's why we have a republic instead. *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore our republic. Most of the press and courts fail to do so. They've forgotten that freedom matters.

### Letter to Wisconsin State Journal on Termination of the Dane County Regional Planning Commission

We are six elected officials whose concerns moved Governor McCallum to reconsider dissolving the Dane County Regional Planning Commission (DC-RPC) as of Oct. 1, 2002, a termination date set in law for three years. He then dissolved it on the advice of the chair of the multi-county-RPC study group, Mark Bugher.

Bugher found it stymied progress. How? By its claim that a multi-county RPC would hurt Dane County! The WSJ (Aug. 23) says that the head of the DC-RPC staff made that claim, and reports how Kathleen Falk practices it. By inaction, she blocked a multi-county RPC the past three years, and continues to do so.

Here are further facts, by which Governor McCallum acted wisely and responsibly to terminate it.

- (1) A one-county RPC isn't regional.
- (2) A majority of municipalities voted to terminate it, and McCallum honors democracy and law.
- (3) Its functions were all being done by other agencies, for which it was duplicative, thus wasting money (\$1 million a year); i.e.:
  - (a) Dane County's Department of Planning and Development does county land use planning,
  - (b) Dane County's Department of Transportation does county transportation planning,
  - (c) Madison does urban transportation planning, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and
  - (d) DNR had as of July 1 assumed the water quality planning (urban service area expansions), which it has long done for the surrounding counties, and for other parts of the state.

The DC-RPC has not done (a), (b) and (c) for the last three years. It has not done (d) since July 1. That's why planning will proceed undisturbed after Oct. 1. County planning does not use or need the DC-RPC.

The head of the DC-RPC staff claims that "frankly" it is not ready to terminate. Its termination date has been set in the law three years, yet it is not ready for it?! That's terrible planning. Yet, that's the DC-RPC.

But, what wailing and gnashing of teeth, and false claims of calamity, by lovers of a one-county RPC. Kathleen Falk, running for governor, plans to sue Gov. McCallum to challenge the democratic process that voted to terminate the DC-RPC. She neither honors democracy, nor has read McCallum's Executive Order 52 very well—it removed water quality planning from the DC-RPC. She also says the dissolution is "abrupt." It's been in the law three years! If that's abrupt to her, she's not competent to be elected governor.

Clearly, Falk and her ilk are against regional (multi-county) planning, and against democracy. Why? In one word: control. Those threatening to sue are willing to thwart the majority vote, to keep control.

This Dane County elitism is clearly displayed in the letter by Montemayor, the letter by Huck, and the guest column by Cieslewicz (WSJ, Aug. 25). Nor do we think the courts will let the 2002 budget bill disenfranchise the municipalities of Dane County which exercised their lawful right to terminate the DC-RPC by majority vote.

Government planning is like vitamins. A small amount is essential for health, but more is poisonous, and very much is fatal. It killed the Soviet Union. In Dane County, we are in the poisonous condition of excessive government planning. That's why we terminated the DC-RPC. If a multi-county RPC makes any sense, it will only be if strict limits are set on how big a dose of government planning it will be.

Sincerely,

Lyman Anderson, Dave Wiganowsky, Mike Byrne,  
Vern Wendt, Bill Hitzemann, and Bob Bowman

#### Editors Note:

Anderson and Wiganowsky are DC-RPC Commissioners and Wendt is a past one. They and Hitzemann are county board supervisors. Wendt and Hitzemann are town board chairs, Bowman is a town board supervisor, and Byrne is a school board president.

**Readers' Bulletin Board.** e-mail us your comments. Include your name, for publication by *Freedom Matters*

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