

To: Members, Wisconsin Legislature

From: Wisconsin Civil Justice Council
American Family Insurance Group
American Tort Reform Association
American Petroleum Institute
Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin
Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee
Church Mutual Insurance Company
Dairy Business Association
Independent Insurance Agents of Wisconsin
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
Midwest Food Products Association
Midwest-SouthEastern Equipment Dealers Association
National Federation of Independent Business-Wisconsin
Professional Insurance Agents of Wisconsin
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America
State Farm Insurance Companies
U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform
Wisconsin Builders Association
Wisconsin Council of Life Insurers
Wisconsin Economic Development Association
Wisconsin Grocers Association
Wisconsin Hospital Association
Wisconsin Independent Businesses
Wisconsin Insurance Alliance
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association
Wisconsin Paper Council
Wisconsin Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association
Wisconsin Restaurant Association
Wisconsin Society of Architects

Date: February 7, 2018

RE: Please SUPPORT Assembly Bill 773/Senate Bill 645: Civil Litigation Reform

The above groups respectfully request that you **support** the pending civil litigation reform legislation (AB 773/SB 645) authored by Representatives Mark Born and John Nygren, and Senators Tom Tiffany and David Craig.

The Wisconsin Legislature and Gov. Scott Walker have made civil liability reform a priority since 2011. These substantive civil liability reforms have brought Wisconsin's civil justice system back into the mainstream and have created a stable and fair litigation climate. This in turn has helped with job creation and economic development. The proposed reforms contained in AB 773/SB 645 build on these positive reforms by making a number of common sense and reasonable changes to Wisconsin's civil procedure laws.

The heart of AB 773/SB 645 aligns Wisconsin's civil procedures for discovery and class actions to the corresponding federal rules, along with other reforms such as removing contingent fees for third party audits on unclaimed property, and reducing statute of limitations. These badly needed changes will reduce litigation costs for small to large businesses, as well as state and local governments who must spend taxpayers' dollars responding to aggressive discovery practices.

For additional information about AB 773/SB 645, please visit the Wisconsin Civil Justice Council's website: <http://www.wisciviljusticecouncil.org/policy-project/civil-litigation-reform-bill-2017-18/>.

Please contact Andy Cook (cook@hamilton-consulting.com), Rebecca Hogan (hogan@hamilton-consulting.com), or R.J. Pirlot (pirlot@hamilton-consulting.com) with any questions.