



January 8, 2026

Speaker Robin Vos

Assembly Majority Leader Tyler August

Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu

Senate President Mary Felzkowski

Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature

RE: Coalition Support for Scheduling a Floor Vote on the *Red Tape Reset Package*

Speaker Vos, Majority Leader LeMahieu, Majority Leader August, President Felzkowski and Members of the Wisconsin Legislature:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing employers, taxpayers, small businesses, and advocates for good government across Wisconsin, we respectfully urge legislative leadership to schedule floor votes on the *Red Tape Reset* regulatory reform package before the end of session.

Wisconsin's regulatory code has grown into one of the most complex and burdensome in the country. Our Administrative Code contains more than 160,000 individual restrictions—**13th highest nationwide and second highest in the Midwest**. This level of red tape slows economic growth, discourages entrepreneurship, and increases costs for families and businesses.

Modernizing our regulatory system would unlock meaningful economic growth and help address the affordability challenges Wisconsin families and employers face every day. Research from the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty finds that **reducing unnecessary red tape by 20%** could generate more than **\$2.5 billion** in additional economic activity for Wisconsin.

States across the country have already shown that structured, ambitious regulatory reform works:

- **Virginia** exceeded its 25% regulatory reduction goal, producing an estimated **\$1.4 billion in annual savings** and reducing new home construction costs by roughly **\$24,000**.
- **Idaho** conducted a full-scale regulatory review, cutting or simplifying **95%** of its administrative code and becoming the least regulated state in America.

- **Ohio** required agencies to reduce regulatory restrictions by 30% and created a permanent, public inventory of rules so businesses know exactly what is required of them.

These examples demonstrate that Wisconsin can streamline regulation, strengthen oversight, and promote growth without compromising public safety.

The *Red Tape Reset* package brings these same principles to Wisconsin. Its key components include:

AB 274/SB 277 – Seven-Year Sunset of Administrative Rules

Requires every state regulation to be reviewed at least once every seven years. Agencies must demonstrate clear statutory authority and continued need. If they cannot, the rule automatically expires. This prevents outdated or unauthorized regulations from remaining on the books and restores meaningful legislative oversight.

AB 275/SB 276 – Fee Shifting for Unlawful Rules

Allows citizens who successfully challenge an unlawfully adopted rule to recover attorneys' fees. This lowers barriers to public oversight and encourages agencies to remain within their legal authority.

AB 276/SB 275 – Strengthened Scope Statements

Requires one scope statement per rule and sets a 60-day expiration for emergency rule scope statements. This restores early notice, transparency, and legislative awareness while preventing agencies from stretching a single scope statement across multiple rulemakings.

AB 277/SB 289 – Regulatory Budgeting

Requires agencies proposing costly new rules to identify offsetting reductions by modifying or repealing existing rules. If they cannot, the new regulation cannot take effect without an affirmative vote of the Legislature. This ensures that expensive mandates receive direct review by elected officials.

These reforms are not only sound policy—they are broadly supported.

Polling from the Institute for Reforming Government shows that **67% of likely Wisconsin voters support** requiring legislative review of any regulation that has been in effect for more than seven years. And according to the WMC Summer 2025 Employer Survey, **23% of Wisconsin business leaders identified reducing or reforming regulations** as the single most important action state government could take to help their business—second only to health-care affordability.

The Legislature now has a timely opportunity to advance reforms that support small businesses, strengthen Wisconsin's economy, and restore proper constitutional checks and balances. We respectfully ask leadership to place the *Red Tape Reset* package on the floor calendars at the next available opportunity.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a competitive, transparent regulatory environment. Our organizations stand ready to assist as the Legislature considers these important reforms.

Sincerely,

- Americans for Prosperity – Wisconsin
- Associated Builders and Contractors
- Badger Institute
- Cicero Institute
- FGA Action
- IRG Action Fund
- MacIver Impact
- Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
- Midwest Food Products Association
- National Federation of Independent Businesses
- Pacific Legal Foundation
- Wisconsin Independent Businesses
- Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
- Wisconsin Property Taxpayers, Inc.