

WISCONSIN ALLIANCE OF CITIES

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November 17, 2000

Professor Don Kettl
Chair
Blue-Ribbon Commission on State-Local Partnership for the 21st Century
1225 Observatory Dr.
UW-Madison
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Professor Kettl:


At a general membership meeting this morning in Janesville, members of the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities approved the following position with respect to commission discussions:

1. State aid programs should not reward new spending, but they should grow with inflation, be stable and predictable and recognize that cities, villages, towns and school districts that offer the same level and type of services should have the same tax burden.
2. The commission should reject the marketbasket approach to funding local services.
3. The commission should approve creation of a local government institute to follow in the commission's footsteps to provide leadership for applied research on emerging issues; model distribution formulas for intergovernmental transfers; and research and develop new policies and practices in government that enhance professional development of officials and employees engaged in government service. The institute would be organized along the lines I proposed in the paper distributed at the commission meeting Nov. 16.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Huck
executive director

Sustainable Cities for the 21st Century