

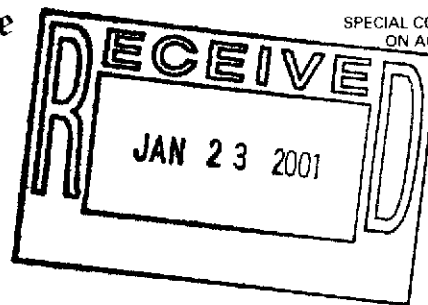
HERBERT KOHL  
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COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
JUDICIARY  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4903



January 19, 2001

Edward J. Huck  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Alliance of Cities  
14 West Mifflin Street, Suite 206  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Huck:

*Ed*

When the new President sends his budget up to Congress, the fiscal year 2002 appropriations season begins. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, the committee which determines the specific spending levels for the annual budget, I have the opportunity to promote projects of interest to Wisconsin. In some cases there is directed federal funding available for projects in specific communities. In other cases, there are larger accounts that provide funds to states or federal grant programs. I am calling on you to let me know of your needs to help me in the appropriations process.

In past years I have heard from many local leaders about projects of interest to the people of Wisconsin. The following information should guide you in recognizing those projects which are most likely to receive funding from the Appropriations Committee. There are no guarantees that any specific project will be funded, but I am committed to pursuing every opportunity for funding for our state. Of course, I want to hear about all your needs. I am often aware of sources of federal or other funding that may be available to you and I welcome the opportunity to direct you to these resources.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Brian Spahn of my staff at (414) 297-4451. All correspondence should be directed to my Washington office to the attention of Naomi Baum:

330 Hart Senate Office Building  
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Washington, D.C. 20510-4903

**To guarantee consideration for fiscal year 2002 funding, I must have your requests by February 23, 2001.**

I look forward to working with you and your organization. Best Wishes.

Sincerely,

Herb Kohl  
U.S. Senator

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## Appropriations Committee General Funding Guidelines

**Economic Development Initiatives.** I receive many requests for economic development initiatives (EDI), funded through the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) spending bill. I have been pleased to support many important Wisconsin EDIs and want you to be aware of the Senate Subcommittee criteria for these projects. Specifically, the Subcommittee has specified that EDI requests for federal funding should generally: create jobs or meet a compelling community need; benefit low or moderate income neighborhoods; eliminate physical or economic distress; represent a one-year request; and be matched by a non-Federal source of funding.

I agree with the Subcommittee criteria for economic development projects. There are many worthy and unique civic enhancement projects that meet admirable goals, such as education and community beautification. However, I urge you to work with me in advocating for economic development projects that closely meet the criteria laid out by the Subcommittee.

**Transportation.** I have worked to provide funding for many Wisconsin transportation priorities, such as buses, railroad-highway grade hazard elimination, Coast Guard activities in the Great Lakes and airport equipment. I have also worked hard to maintain the strong level of Federal funding approved, with my support, under the 1998 Transportation Equity Law (TEA-21). Because of the gains in TEA-21, Wisconsin now receives a 99 percent return on dollars sent to the Federal government for highway and bridge construction.

That said, I would like to explain why I generally do not advocate for specific Wisconsin road and bridge projects. I receive many letters from constituents both for and against local highway, road and bridge projects. This input is not surprising. The construction or widening of roads and bridges shapes communities and has a tremendous impact on our economy, environment and quality of life. We all need safe passage to work, school or whatever our pursuit, and it's critically important that local infrastructure and safety needs are met.

But when it comes to deciding what those needs are and should be, I am a firm believer that more often than not, local officials know what's best and are the most capable of reaching consensus. Because of this belief, and the sheer number of project requests that I receive every year, I generally do not advocate for specific Wisconsin road and bridge projects through the appropriations process. In addition, while there are some instances in which Congress provides directed funding for these types of projects, such as the Federal Lands and the National Trade Corridor Programs, the vast majority of federal funds are distributed to the states by formula, with project selection left to state and local officials. In most cases, I am convinced that this is the fairest and most efficient policy.

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**Sewers.** I have been pleased to support Wisconsin sewer and wastewater projects through the Environmental Protection Agency State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program. Again, so that we can work together effectively, you should be aware that sewer projects are generally considered more worthy of funding through the appropriations process if resources available to the project under the State Revolving Loan Fund have been exhausted, and if attempts to fund projects locally place extraordinary demands on local ratepayers.

I would also encourage small communities to contact the National Small Flows Clearinghouse at West Virginia University. This organization can be a valuable resource for community leaders looking for alternative funding sources and technical assistance for wastewater projects. They are familiar with all the federal programs available to help upgrade and expand wastewater treatment facilities for small towns and municipalities. They can be reached at 1-800-624-8301 or on the web at [www.nsfrc.wvu.edu](http://www.nsfrc.wvu.edu).

**Storm Water Detention and Water Quality Projects.** You should be aware that there are occasions where the Environmental Protection Agency provides funding for water projects if they are designed to protect water quality. Also, the Army Corps of Engineers often will provide funding for storm water detention projects. If you have storm water detention projects, I encourage you to contact your local Army Corps of Engineers office about your proposed projects to get their input and perspective. The interest of the local office can go a long way toward the success of a project. Not only can they help a locality go through the necessary steps of design and planning, but the support of the local and regional office is an important step in gaining the support of Army Corps' headquarters. The Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, which provides funding for the Army Corps of Engineers, is most likely to fund projects which have the support of the Army Corps' headquarters in Washington.

It is important to remember that the main missions of the Corps are to maintain navigation on lakes and rivers and to protect against flooding. Projects that focus on these goals will be given highest priority, while projects that are recreational in nature receive low priority from the Army.

**Local Government Construction Projects.** Unfortunately, I am not aware of appropriations funds which have been directed to the upgrading of local government facilities and the expansion of local library systems. In general, there are limited appropriations funds available for local construction projects, except for those meeting specialized needs such as federal courthouses, military projects, or economic development projects which create jobs or meet a compelling community need. I often receive requests for directed appropriations funds for playground equipment and golf courses. Unfortunately, I am also unaware of directed appropriations funding for these purposes.

**Jails and Law Enforcement Facilities.** Funding for jails and other law enforcement facilities are provided through grants to the states, not through directed appropriations funding. Since fiscal year 1996 there has been \$10 billion in federal funding authorized for prison construction through the amended Crime Control Act of 1994. In the fiscal year 2001 Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill which was incorporated in the fiscal year 2001 District of Columbia appropriation bill, there was \$686.5 million appropriated for state prison grants. I am a strong

supporter of sending federal anti-crime money to state authorities, and it would make some sense to distribute a portion of this funding for the improvement of county jails. But the state of Wisconsin determines how this money is spent, and it has committed fiscal year 1996 and 1997 grant funds for prisons to the construction of a 509-bed Supermax facility at Boscobel to house the most aggressive, violent offenders. Wisconsin received \$2.7 million in fiscal year 1998, \$5.1 million in fiscal year 1999, and \$4.6 million in fiscal year 2000. These funds were allocated for the new New Lisbon Correctional Institution (\$5 million), improvements at the Taycheedah Correctional Institution (\$2.7 million), improvements at the Green Bay Correctional Institution (\$268,000), and technology upgrades in urinalysis for inmates (\$72,000). The remaining \$4.36 million will likely be distributed during the upcoming state budget process.

Although I am unaware of directed appropriations funding for local jails and law enforcement facilities, as a member of the Judiciary and Appropriations Committees, I will continue to pursue any opportunities that may help in this area.