# ANTHONY J. STASKUNAS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 15TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT


**Statement of Rep. Tony Staskunas, AB 153**
**Senate Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources Committee**
September 30, 2009

Chairman Holperin and members, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share with you my support for Assembly Bill 153, a proposal relating to the membership of the State Fair Park Board.

In the 1999 Legislative Session, the State Fair Park governance underwent the most extensive statutory revisions and comprehensive renovation in its over 100 years of history. At that time, the State Fair Park Board was expanded, and members with certain areas of expertise were specified for appointment to the Board.

Because of the State Fair Park's rich history in our state's agriculture and tourism industries, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Department of Tourism were added to the membership of Board. Prior to this reorganization, the State Fair Park was statutorily attached to the Department of Tourism. However, the Secretary was not a board member.

Assembly Bill 153 addresses these two specific, cabinet-level appointees. This proposal allows the Secretaries of both DATCP and Tourism to designate an employee within their respective departments to serve on the State Fair Park Board and vote on their behalf.

The Secretaries of each of these departments shoulder a great deal of responsibility not only in their offices but around the state. Allowing them the ability to appoint an employee from their department to the State Fair Park Board provides them with input without the significant demands on their limited time.

Assembly Bill 153 is identical to last session's AB 896 which received a unanimous vote on the floor of the Assembly but failed to be acted on by the Senate prior to the conclusion of the legislative session. AB 153 received unanimous votes in the Assembly Committee on Tourism, Recreation and State Properties and on the Assembly floor.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.


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*CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM*

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Office of the Secretary

TO: Senator Jim Holperin, Chair
Members of Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources

FROM: Secretary Rod Nilsestuen

DATE: September 30, 2009

Thank you for holding the hearing today on Assembly Bill 153 which will allow the Secretary of the Department of Tourism and the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to designate a staff member to serve on the Wisconsin State Fair Park Board in their place. On behalf of DATCP, I would like to lend my support to AB 153.

I would also like to thank the authors of the AB 153, Representatives Staskunas and Gunderson and Senators Sullivan and Kanavas for introducing the proposal. The change is needed to ensure that DATCP continues to have solid and informed representation on the board in the event that I am unable to attend a meeting.

The department has long enjoyed its historic partnership with the Wisconsin State Fair Park and looks forward to continuing its service on the board into the future.

# WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

Jim Doyle, Governor

Kelli A. Trumble, Secretary

April 14, 2009

Tony Staskunas
State Representative, 15th Assembly District
State Capitol
Room 212 North
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Staskunas:

I write to you in support of Assembly Bill 153 that proposes to amend the statutes concerning State Fair Park Board membership.

Department of Tourism representation on the State Fair Park Board brings critical state government integration to the function and promotion of the park and its events. However, as Secretary my schedule often does not permit me to attend every board and committee meeting. In those rare times that I am unable to attend, having flexibility to send a Department representative in my absence provides much needed continuity and consistency to the board.

Assembly Bill 153 modifies the statute to allow the Secretary of Tourism to provide a designee in their absence. I envision my designee would be the Tourism Deputy Secretary for those opportunities that I am unable to attend board meetings and the Tourism Marketing and Communications Director in the case of marketing committee meetings. Both designees would serve State Fair Park Board well in my absence in terms of their functions and roles within the Department of Tourism.

I thank you for the opportunity to lend my support to this worthwhile bill, which will better serve the interests of State Fair Park.

Warm regards,

Kelli A. Trumble
Secretary

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# Wisconsin State Fair Park

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April 14, 2009

Representative Terry Van Akkeren, Chair
Committee on Tourism, Recreation and State Properties
State Capitol, Room 220 North
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Representative Van Akkeren:

Your Committee will consider Assembly Bill 153 on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. The Wisconsin State Fair Park Board and its management fully support the proposed legislation that would allow two of its board members (the Secretary of the Department of Tourism and the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection) to appoint a designee to represent them on the Board if they are not available.

State Fair Park was originally attached to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and is currently attached to the Department of Tourism. These associations reflect the State Fair's important roles in the State's agriculture and tourism industries as well as the strong working relationship between these agencies and State Fair Park. Because of this, State Fair Park board members and management believe the secretaries of the departments of Tourism and Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection should have the flexibility to have their position on issues counted even when they are unable to attend a board meeting. Being able to send a designee in their place solves this issue.

Thank you for considering this bill and please let me know if there is anything more I or members of the State Fair Park Board can do to help its passage. I can be reached by email at Craig.Barkelar@wisconsin.gov or by telephone at (414) 266-7011.

Sincerely,

Craig Barkelar

Craig Barkelar
Deputy Executive Director
Wisconsin State Fair Park

cc: Members of the Committee on Tourism, Recreation and State Properties