

Invest in the Building Program

Fund Vertical Construction

FACT SHEET

ACEC
Wisconsin

ISSUE

The State of Wisconsin is the largest building owner in the state owning over 6,000 building structures totaling well over 75 million square feet of space. This total includes facilities for UW Systems, the Departments of Corrections, Military Affairs and Natural Resources, state office buildings and residential facilities operated by the Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Instruction. Nearly two-thirds of these facilities are over 35 years old and are in significant need of replacement, repair or renovation. Facility inventories show that UW Systems alone has a \$2 billion backlog in maintenance and repairs.

KEY POINTS

- Insufficient bonding upsets long-term planning resulting in cost overruns that negatively impact taxpayers.
- Routine maintenance is best performed through revenue because of its short-term nature. This work prolongs the life expectancy of projects; each dollar of deferred maintenance will cost taxpayers four dollars in major repairs later.
- State facilities are designed to last a long time before needing renovations or replacement. Bonding will be paid off during the expected life cycles.
- Many buildings, dams and other facilities are at or past their projected life cycles or working at a capacity beyond which they were designed.
- The previous Capital Budget deferred nearly all needed capital projects for state buildings and UW Systems.

ACTION REQUESTED

- Support investing heavily in the Capital Budget to address project backlogs. At a minimum, support the Governor's plan to direct \$450 million in new borrowing for state building projects.
- Adequately fund preventative maintenance to reduce costly future repairs.

American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin is the largest organization in the state representing the business interests of professional engineers. Our members are private business owners, taxpayers and community members who work to advance the prosperity and welfare of Wisconsin.

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