



REPRESENTATIVE JANET BEWLEY

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

Senate Bill 305
February 27, 2014

Good Morning Chairman Petrowski and Committee members. Let me begin by thanking Senator Petrowski for giving this bill a hearing. I know that Senator Jauch and the Executive Director of the Cable Area Chamber of Commerce have discussed this bill with you in detail and that we all appreciate your leadership on this issue.

As you all know, Wisconsin has a long and proud Olympic tradition, a tradition that is growing every day. The small town of Cable, known for the annual Birkebeiner cross country ski race, has hosted two International Paralympic events in the last two years and has just been awarded the 2015 International Paralympic Committee Nordic Skiing World Championship.

Senate Bill 305 is an opportunity for the State of Wisconsin to strengthen our relationship with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and expand their presence in our state.

Under the bill, revenues generated from the sale of specially designed license plates that include the USOC logo would be used to support Wisconsin facilities and organizations that have strong partnerships with the USOC. The revenue would be split between the Pettit National Ice Center in West Allis, which is an official US Olympic Training Site and the Central Cross Country Ski Association of Verona, which is an official Community Olympic Development Program that operates in partnership with the Cable Area Chamber of Commerce and the USOC.

The authors of this bill worked very closely with both the Department of Transportation and Senator Petrowski's office to make sure that this legislation will not cost taxpayers any money and will only be activated once the sponsoring organizations have raised the initial set up costs, which is estimated to be between \$9,000 and \$10,000.

Several other states, including Michigan, have made similar agreements with the USOC and have been able to raise revenue to support USOC events. Our bill simply puts Wisconsin on the list as another state that embraces the presence of Olympic events and training, and supports the partnerships their communities are building with the USOC.

Thank you for consideration of SB 305.



74th Assembly District