



Metropolitan Milwaukee  
Association of Commerce

**DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2014**

**TO: SENATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES COMMITTEE**

**FROM: STEVE BAAS, VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
METROPOLITAN MILWAUKEE ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE**

**RE: SB 476**

On behalf of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC), I would like to thank the committee for granting this bill a public hearing and urge your favorable consideration of this simple but extremely important piece of legislation.

The Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) is a critical partner with MMAC in building a competitive regional economy in Southeast Wisconsin. The workers trained by MATC provide the workforce that fuels our prosperity. They are an indispensable partner in our economic development efforts.

That partnership was made stronger and more effective last session when the legislature passed Act 286, reconstituting the MATC Board of Directors to create stronger linkages between the college and the employers hiring the graduates of the college. We have already begun to see the positive results of this change. Late in the debate over Act 286, however, a technical matter was identified by one of the MATC Board members concerning the statutory definition of “employer” as it pertained to employer representation on the Board. Unfortunately, that concern was raised too late to be incorporated in the final act.

SB 476 simply goes back and makes that correction and realigns the statute to match the legislature’s intent of strengthening employer representation on the MATC Board. Under the existing statute, the term “employer” refers to the type of business represented on the Board but not the type of person on the Board. This bill clarifies that when the legislature strengthened employer representation on the board they meant individuals with employer responsibility – hiring and firing authority, management authority, and profit and loss authority – not merely individuals associated with a qualified business entity in some way.

This small change will help realize the full promise of Act 286 and create stronger and more effective linkages between our technical college and employers. These linkages will, in turn, help create a more robust talent pipeline to fuel a growing economy in the metro Milwaukee region. I urge your support for this measure.

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February 5, 2014

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges  
From: Senator Glenn Grothman  
Re: Senate Bill 476

Thank you for scheduling Senate Bill 476 for a public hearing. This legislation makes a simple, technical change to 2011 Act 286.

Last session's legislation, Act 286, changed the method for selecting the Milwaukee Area Technical College district board and the qualifications for the board members. The legislation included a provision that required five of the nine board members to represent employers. Representative Sanfelippo and I have introduced this legislation to clarify the definition of a person representing an employer.

This legislation requires an individual representing an employer to have at least two years of experience in managing a business entity, a non-profit organization that provides health care services, a credit union, or a cooperative.

This legislation will create stronger bonds between the technical college and employers. This will allow for a better trained and more attractive workforce. Please join me in supporting this modest, commonsense proposal that will clarify current law.



**Testimony in Opposition to SB 476**  
Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges  
Senator Sheila Harsdorf, Chair

February 5, 2014

Dear Senator Harsdorf and Committee Members,

Wisconsin Technical College District Boards statewide strongly oppose SB 476.

This bill would unduly limit the MATC Milwaukee Board appointing authority in selecting the best-qualified candidates representative of district employers. It also further restricts MATC Board appointments one year after major changes were implemented changing the board and its appointment process to be distinct from the other 15 district boards statewide. Those reforms should be allowed to function for a time before additional changes are considered. This bill would also make two highly qualified incumbent employer representative board members ineligible to continuing serving, despite their representation of key employers/industries, and the strong support of their respective employers to serve in the position.

**MATC Board Reform:** The final new law passed in the previous 2-year legislative session, 2011 Act 286, fundamentally changed the MATC Milwaukee board appointing authority, the district's board positions, and eligibility to serve on the board. The appointing authority was changed from being comprised of almost 30 constituent school board presidents, to be just 4 county officials: the Milwaukee County Board Chair, Milwaukee County Executive, Ozaukee County Board Chair, and the Washington County Board Chair. The first 2 of 4 represent approximately 90% of the district population. The latter 2 of 4 represent approximately 10% of the district population.

Like the other colleges, the 9-member MATC District Board continues to have an elected official and school district administrator position on its board. The remaining seven positions are now different from the rest of the state. Selections of all board members are made publicly on a merit basis by assessing resumes and letters of recommendation and conducting interviews in a public hearing.

For 15 of 16 college boards, the appointing authority selects 2 "employer," 2 "employee," and 3 "at large" positions. At MATC, the appointers select 5 "persons representing employers" and 2 at large members. These 5 positions must be from

private for-profit businesses, or from a non-profit healthcare entity, a credit union, or a cooperative association. All other forms of employment including persons in public employment or working for non-profits are excluded from the majority of five board seats. Likewise, any retired person or person not currently employed cannot serve.

The 5 positions must be split between large (>100 employees) and small employers, and at least 2 of the 5 must represent manufacturing. Also by statute, 7 of 9 total board members at MATC must reside in Milwaukee County.

**SB 476:** This bill requires that appointees to each of the existing five private “business person” positions on the MATC Milwaukee Board, in addition to all of the above changes, have at least two years experience “managing” a business.

This is overly restrictive. The 1911 legislation creating what would become technical colleges established boards to be comprised of “employers and employees” along with a K-12 school official. The concept, still valid and vibrant after 103 years, is that these “continuation” schools, now colleges, would be governed by persons representing the full spectrum of the world of work and employment.

The current MATC Milwaukee Board includes in the 5 “representative of employer” positions:

*Two manufacturing firm CEO/owners:*

David Dull, President/CEO  
Allis Roller, LLC  
Franklin

Michael Katz, President  
Molded Dimensions  
Port Washington

*One retired vice president of a Fortune 500 corporation*

Melanie Holmes  
Retired Vice President  
World of Work Solutions  
Manpower Group  
Milwaukee

*One retired Milwaukee Fire Department Captain now working for a large dental group*

Bobbie Webber  
Sales Representative/Union Liaison  
Dental Associates  
Wauwatosa



*And, one machinist*

Graciela Maizonet  
Machine Builder/Repairer  
Master Lock Company  
Milwaukee

Neither Webber nor Maizonet could be reappointed under SB 476. Webber served with distinction for a full career in the Milwaukee Fire Department attaining the rank of Captain. He is active in the community, in community volunteer activities and is currently the MATC Board Chairperson. Board member Webber is now working in retirement as a sales representative to union and other groups for Dental Associates, a major healthcare provider. He has strong support from his employer to serve on the MATC Board.

Board member Maizonet was encouraged by leaders at Master Lock to serve on the MATC Board representing employers. She is a Latina tradesperson, a talented machinist serving in what has been historically a largely male and white/Caucasian career arc. Master Lock itself is a success story of manufacturing “re-shoring,” bringing formerly exported jobs back to U.S. workers.

Both Webber and Maizonet represent their employers and are supported by their employers. Both have a career in and expertise understanding fields essential to MATC and to the district: protective (fire) service, healthcare/dental and manufacturing/skilled trades. Neither would meet the “2 years managing” requirement sought by SB 476.

Upon implementation of 2011 Act 286, the reconstituted appointment authority has now met for just one inaugural cycle of board appointments. Any potential further changes that would benefit the community remain to be seen over time based on a new model that has really just come into operation. The community, our association and the Legislature should assess how the process works over time and then seek to make any well-considered changes.

Changes raised in the 2011 session, and added to that bill during the process, included allowing representatives of employers to come from credit unions, non-profit healthcare and cooperatives in addition to “for profit” business. However, one change proposed, but not made, in the previous session would allow a person retired from representative business and industry to serve. Board member Holmes, for example, is newly retired from a career that led her to be a Fortune 500 corporation vice president at a corporation at the heart of Milwaukee and MATC, Manpower Group. She could not, under current law, any longer be considered “representative of employers” in the reappointment cycle.

It’s not hard to argue that we “want more” representation on local boards from various industries, employers, backgrounds, experiences, and a myriad of other factors across the great diversity of humanity residing in our districts. More is better.

The real issue here include who decides and why, and the appointing authority's flexibility to select the best qualified applicants representing MATC District employers and the "world of work." We continue to believe that a well-balanced local appointing authority is in the best position to select those individuals. The MATC Board currently has 6 persons with years "managing." To remove two others from the board for lack of managing experience despite their representation of key business and training areas vital to the college and the strong support of their respective employers does not represent good public policy. These highly specific and locally targeted limitations on the appointing authority and board service should not be law.

Respectfully, on behalf of Wisconsin's 144 district board members,

-- Paul Gabriel