



ROBERT WITTKÉ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 62nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Committee on Local Government

April 15, 2021

Testimony on AB 164

Chair Novak and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 164 (AB 164). I am pleased to be here to testify in support of this bill. Today I'm joined by President David DeGroot and Mr. Claude Lois of the Village of Mount Pleasant in Racine County.

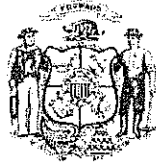
In 2017, the Legislature passed Wisconsin Act 58 that, among other things, created a tax incremental district (TID) in an electronics and information technology manufacturing zone. As a result, the Village of Mount Pleasant and Racine County has experienced economic growth.

The TID passed in 2017 would allow for expansion of police, fire and other public safety measures for municipalities. The Village of Mount Pleasant is currently reviewing and assessing their police, fire and public safety needs. The challenge is the deadline of seven (7) years. Assembly Bill 164 would increase the deadline for these types of projects to 15 years. We believe the extension will allow the village to make a fiscally responsible decision as to their need and not force them to rush a decision.

AB 164 is a re-draft of 2019 AB 687 which was unanimously passed by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and the State Assembly. The State Senate was unable to complete passage of the bill in 2020 due to COVID state closures.

It is important for the Village of Mount Pleasant, and Racine County, that AB 164 move forward. I urge the committee to recommend passage.

Thank you again for holding this public hearing. I would be happy to answer any questions.



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

TESTIMONY ON ASEMBLY BILL 164

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Committee Members for today's hearing on Assembly Bill 164, which extends the time for Mount Pleasant to utilize the Electronics and Information Technology Manufacturing Zone (EITM) TIF funds from 84 to 180 months.

As you may be aware, this TIF District was created in September of 2017, as part of the Foxconn development in Mount Pleasant. Since that announcement, Mount Pleasant is seeing tremendous growth, and not just because of Foxconn. Businesses and residents are rushing into Mount Pleasant, changing the footprint of Mount Pleasant. New homes and businesses are springing up all around Mount Pleasant.

Under the TIF law for the EITM Zone, Mount Pleasant would have to begin the process of designing, purchasing and building a fire station now, before the growth and development is completed. It is putting the cart before the horse. This bill allows Mount Pleasant to use the EITM TIF growth at any time during the TIF's existence rather than in the next 3 years.

This change will allow Mount Pleasant to determine where best to put a new fire station after more development has occurred. In addition to being good logistical planning, this also makes fiscal sense. If Mount Pleasant were to allocate resources now, before development has fully taken off, additional resources may be required to locate a new fire station elsewhere in the village.

In short, this simple bill makes logistical and fiscal sense. Last session, it passed the Assembly, a senate committee, and was scheduled to pass the full Senate in March when COVID hit. It has the support of the surrounding legislators, and local governments, and I urge you to support it as well.

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