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To: The Senate Committee on Government Operations, Legal Review and
Consumer Protection
From: Sen. Dan Feyen
Re: Senate Bill 65

Hello Chairman Stroebel and members of the committee, thank you for taking the time to hold a public hearing on this bill.

SB 65 is a simple, bipartisan effort that will reduce government spending and waste.

I'm sure you are all familiar with the biennial distribution of blue books and highway maps. Under current law, legislators must accept the full allocation. For a State Senator this means 600 blue books, 500 folded highway maps and 50 highway service maps. There are no exceptions to this and each session many of these blue books and highway maps go to waste.

SB 65 lets legislative offices request, prior to printing, the amount of blue books and highway maps that they will need for the session.

One of my staff has a sister in education; she received blue books from her legislator for each one of the children under her care. Her students are 4 years old and have absolutely no use for a blue book. The teacher then tried to give the books to the middle school and was turned down. This is government waste to a T. Under current law, legislators are tasked with either distributing or throwing out hundreds of blue books and highway maps. SB 65 fixes this problem.

SB 65 does not eliminate the printing these documents. For legislators that have distribution lists of people who want a blue book or highway map every year, they still have the option to request their full allotment.

SB 65 reduces waste, reduces spending, and maintains legislator's flexibility to meet their constituent needs.

Thank you again for hearing this bill. With that I am happy to answer any questions.



Testimony of Rep. Don Vruwink

Senate Bill 65

April 13, 2021

Before the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Legal Review, and Consumer Protection

Thank you, Chairman Stroebel.

I call this bill "Saving Taxpayer Dollars and Saving Landfill Space."

This bill ends automatic distribution of Blue Books and highway maps to legislative offices.

It gives legislators the freedom to choose how many they want.

Currently each Assembly office automatically receives 350 Blue Books.

Each Senate office automatically receives 600 Blue Books.

Each legislative office automatically receives 500 paper folded highway maps and 50 laminated wall maps.

This bill eliminates that state law and instead requires the LRB and DOT to ask each office how many they want.

I am NOT against Blue Books.

Not against Wisconsin highway maps.

Constituents appreciate them and use them.

I distribute all that are allotted to me, and ask other offices for their extras.

Still, hundreds or thousands do not end up in the hands of the people.

Right now, there is a mountain of Blue Books in the hallway outside of my office.

They have been sitting there since January.

Ultimately they will end up in landfills or recycling centers, tremendous waste of tax dollars and landfill space.

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