



*Hispanic Chamber
of Commerce*
WISCONSIN

April 23, 2013

Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive
901 North 9 Street #306
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

Urgent Attention: Raisa.Koltun@milwcnty.com

Dear County Executive Abele:

On behalf of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin (HCCW) please be advised that we **adamantly oppose** the changes to the SBE Resolution Ordinance.

We strongly encourage that you veto this Resolution without hesitation. These actions are a substantial departure from the Federal Guidelines in similar programs. The HCCW is stunned at this drastic change; one which will negatively impact and inhibit many of our HCCW members from natural progression and growth. To add insult to injury, the HCCW was not contacted for input to this resolution prior to its approval by the county supervisors.

While a \$4.0 million dollar threshold may appear to be a high limit when construction projects are being produced, a small business can easily exceed this limit, thus causing small businesses from quickly being disallowed to participate in the Milwaukee County's stellar programs. Be rest assured, the livelihood of Hispanic contractors are in jeopardy with the enactment of the Resolution Ordinance; an ordinance that would adversely affect the upward mobility of the Hispanic contractor community; an ordinance that would cause severe and irreparable harm to Hispanic contractors and to a great extent the greater Milwaukee economy.

Although other cities may have SBE programs with thresholds below the federal standards, many of those cities do not have high goals set for SBE participation similar to Milwaukee County's 25% goal.

Approving this resolution will encourage the unfortunate process of "fronting" as proven in many other minority and race neutral programs. The HCCW will staunchly stand at your side should you receive any opposition to your veto on this poorly thought-out resolution.

On behalf of our membership and thousands who look to the HCCW for leadership, please weigh heavily the negative impact that would occur. **Please exert your veto power on behalf of your hardworking Hispanic constituency.**

As always your attention and support are sincerely appreciated, as is the opportunity to comment.

Adelante Juntos / Forward Together

Maria Monreal-Cameron, President & CEO
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin

Cc: HCCW Exec Committee

Funded in part by
Community Development Block Grant



Recipients: Hispanic Chamber of the Year 1988
Hispanic Chamber of the Year ~ Region IV 1994, 1996 through 2009
~ National 2005/2006

Member United States Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce