



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County

CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: April 23, 2013

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Abele", written over a horizontal line.

RE: Veto of County Board File No. 13-221 on the change of definition of Small Business Enterprise

I am vetoing County Board File No. 13-221 pursuant to the authority granted to me by Article IV, Section 23(a) of the Wisconsin Constitution and Section 59.17(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The County Board adopted an ordinance change on March 21, 2013 changing the definition of Small Business Enterprise (SBE) to a cap of \$4 million in average annual gross receipts over the firm's previous three years.

In meeting with the Director of Community Business Development Partners (CBDP), my office heard that a workgroup was convened – comprised of various Chambers of Commerce around Milwaukee County – to discuss the definition of SBE. However, when my office talked to some of the leaders at the major Chambers of Commerce in Milwaukee County, we learned that they were not contacted about this change in definition and had concerns about it. Furthermore, nobody within the County - outside of CBDP – was included in this discussion. It is inappropriate that the Procurement Office was not consulted about this change or its implications for the County.

Also, I reached out to the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) and learned that they define small business differently by industry and by average number of employees or sales volume. This ordinance change would create a uniform single definition over all industries – which is inconsistent with SBA's definition.

Because this is such an important function, we need to make sure we get it right. Based on the evidence presented above, I am concerned about the decision making process.

I urge the Board to sustain my veto so we can get input from critical stakeholders on the implications for the County prior to an ordinance change.