

PUBLIC HEARING-AB 216 Tree and vegetation cutting/removal in public right of way

Tuesday, September 20, 2011
10:30 AM
417 North (GAR Hall)

AB 216 modifies 84.305 requiring WisDOT to issue a permit immediately to a sign owner so the sign owner can cut/remove any trees, vegetation or grass in the public right of way - including those planted with taxpayer funds.

The sign owner will be allowed to cut/remove any trees, vegetation or grass 500 feet away with no standards, review or supervision, and without any requirement to reimburse the taxpayers for the loss. The only benchmark is the sign owner must believe the trees, vegetation or grass blocks the view of one or more of their billboards, and the sign owner gets to decide unilaterally the best time and method for the cutting and removal.

The bill makes no distinction between any trees, vegetation or grass planted before the billboard was erected or in front of any non-conforming billboards [billboards that are prohibited from being improved, enlarged or replaced and are expected to come down when they reach the end of their serviceable life (some were issued permits when FDR was President but have somehow defied the laws of chemistry and physics and remain upright all these years later)].

The only standard in the bill is no trees, vegetation or grass would be permitted to be cut or removed inside incorporated municipalities (cities and villages) - but without any WisDOT review, standards or supervision, this is almost meaningless.

We already are aware of reports of trees and vegetation being cut and removed in the right of way inside incorporated municipalities and townships without a permit, so

And if the experience in other states that have passed similar legislation is any indication, we can expect to see huge swaths of trees and vegetation cut and removed first, with any questions asked later.

PLEASE SPEAK UP TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVES!

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>

ALSO, PLEASE SHARE!

If you are unable to attend but would like to register in opposition, please feel free to do so or contact our Legislative Advisor Gary Goyke (gary.goyke@gmail.com)

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