

Stronach, Bonnie

From: Kathy Melzer <Kathy.Melzer@wicourts.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 12:09 PM
To: Falk, Kathleen
Subject: Re: The recent action of the state senate

Dear Kathleen, Topf & Executive Staff:

Thank you for this well-written statement of legal definition and professional encouragement to all concerned. Your leadership continues to be a greatly needed source of strength as we continue our daily work in proud public service.

Respectfully yours,
Kathy Melzer, CT III
Circuit Court Branch 9
AFSCME Local 720

>>> "Falk, Kathleen" <Falk@countyofdane.com> 3/10/2011 11:09 AM >>>

DATE: March 10, 2011

TO: Dane County Officials and Employees

FROM: Kathleen M. Falk
Dane County Executive

RE: The recent action of the State Senate

Thanks to all of you for the hard work you do to improve the lives of our fellow Dane County residents. As I near the end of my service as County Executive, I am honored and proud to have worked with you.

Last night, I was shocked and sickened by the State Senate's rushed and secretive actions to destroy collective bargaining for public employees. In 35 years of public service, I have never seen such a blatant abuse of power.

All of us have to work every day in accord with laws that ensure that we work fairly and serve the public interest. The Governor and Legislature have the same duty to obey such laws -- especially those that guarantee citizens can know what their governing is doing. I fear that the Legislature violated some of these most important laws last night. This morning, I have authorized Corporation Counsel to go to court to challenge these offensive actions that are destroying the public trust in our government. The legislation, if passed, will have fundamentally serious consequences for our state with dire results, I believe, for Dane County and the citizens we serve. For that reason alone, it is absolutely necessary for the Governor and Legislature to follow the law in considering this legislation. As legislators prepare to take up the Governor's budget, which contains so many destructive elements, they need to be reminded, as strenuously as possible, of the law they must obey as a Legislature.

Based on the conversations I have had with many of us, I expect that most of you share my concerns with the Governor and Legislature's actions. But, with over 2,000 of us working for Dane County, there are certainly differences of opinion among us. I ask that everyone continue as you have to be respectful of one another in the workplace. Recognizing the stress many of you are experiencing because of the Governor and Legislature's actions, I deeply appreciate your professionalism as you continue to work diligently to serve our citizens.

Thank you.

Kathleen M. Falk

Kathleen M. Falk

Dane County Executive

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