



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Notice of Listed **Material Information** #2002-01
Dated January 16, 2002

This document provides information which may be material to financial evaluation of the State of Wisconsin, however neither the preparation nor submission of this document constitutes a Listed Event pursuant to the State's Master Agreement on Continuing Disclosure.

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Material Information: Revised Revenue Estimates – January 16, 2002

Attached is a **letter, dated January 16, 2002, from the Director of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to the Joint Committee on Finance.** This letter provides revised general-fund revenue estimates and projected general fund closing balances for the 2001-02 and 2002-03 fiscal years.

The Secretary of Administration is required to determine whether budgeted expenditures will exceed revenues by more than one-half of one percent of general-purpose revenues. Upon such a determination the Secretary of Administration is required to notify the Governor, the Legislature, and its Joint Committee on Finance and the Governor must submit a legislative bill correcting the imbalance. It is expected that the Secretary of Administration and the Governor will take any required actions promptly in the near future.

The undersigned represents that he is the Capital Finance Director, State of Wisconsin Capital Finance Office, which is the office of the State of Wisconsin responsible for providing Annual Reports and giving notice of Listed Material Events when notice is required by the State's Master Agreement on Continuing Disclosure.

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State of Wisconsin

January 16, 2002

Representative John Gard, Assembly Chair
Senator Brian Burke, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Representative Gard and Senator Burke:

This office has now completed its review of the status of the state's general fund for the remainder of the 2001-03 biennium. Our analysis includes an examination of economic forecasts and tax collection and expenditure data for the first six months of the current fiscal year.

Based upon our review, we now project the closing, gross general fund balance at the end of the biennium to be -\$974.5 million. This is \$1,024.3 million below the level (\$49.8 million) that was indicated upon enactment of the state's 2001-03 biennial budget (2001 Act 16).

The \$1,024.3 million is the result of decreased estimated tax collections of \$1,039.2 million, a decrease of \$9.7 million in departmental revenues and an estimated decrease in net expenditures (sum sufficient appropriations and lapses) of \$24.6 million.

In addition to the projected gross general fund deficit of -\$974.5 million, provisions of Act 16, as partially vetoed, require that the state maintain a statutory balance of \$142.8 million. Thus, to address the projected deficit and maintain the required statutory balance, the general fund will need to be improved by \$1,117.3 million.

The following table reflects the estimated general fund condition statement which incorporates our revenue and expenditure projections.

TABLE 1**2001-03 General Fund Condition Statement**

	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>
Revenues		
Opening Balance, July 1	\$207,508,000	-\$125,867,400
Estimated Taxes	10,218,200,000	10,534,700,000
Departmental Revenues		
Tobacco Settlement	155,526,000	157,602,800
Tobacco Securitization	450,000,000	0
Other	<u>218,904,900</u>	<u>205,452,800</u>
Total Available	\$11,250,138,900	\$10,771,888,200
Appropriations, Transfers and Reserves		
Gross Appropriations	\$11,534,187,200	\$11,809,293,000**
Sum Sufficient Reestimates	17,290,300	10,485,900
Compensation Reserves	27,900,000	82,500,000
Transfer to Tobacco Control Fund	6,032,300	15,345,100
Less Estimated Lapses	<u>-209,403,500</u>	<u>-171,230,800</u>
Net Appropriations	\$11,376,006,300	\$11,746,393,200
Balances		
Gross Balance	-\$125,867,400	-\$974,505,000
Less Required Statutory Balance*	<u>-138,952,500</u>	<u>-142,827,300</u>
Net Balance, June 30	-\$264,819,900	-\$1,117,332,300

*The statutes do not specify a required balance for 2001-02. The \$138.9 million figure shown for 2001-02 is 1.2% of gross appropriations and compensation reserves. Although not required by statute, the 1.2% calculation was used in condition statements during 2001-03 budget deliberations. 2001 Act 16 requires a balance of 1.2% of gross appropriations and compensation reserves for 2002-03.

**Assumes that the \$115 million of general school aid that would have been paid in 2003-04 under Enrolled SB 55 (the 2001-03 budget adopted by the Legislature) will be paid in 2002-03 because of a veto of the \$115 million payment delay.

General Fund Taxes

The following section provides information on general fund tax revenues for the 2001-03 biennium, including a discussion of the national economic forecast for 2001 through 2003 and general fund tax revenue projections for 2001-02 and 2002-03.

National Economic Forecast. This office first prepared revenue estimates for the 2001-03 biennium in January, 2001, based on the January, 2001, forecast of the economy prepared by Standard & Poor's Data Resources, Inc. (DRI). At that time, no recession was forecast. Positive economic growth was expected to continue in 2001, although at a lower rate than in recent years, followed by a rebound in growth in 2002 and 2003. It was believed that the primary risk to the forecast was that corporate earnings would continue to be depressed by high energy prices, deteriorating global competitiveness and reduced sales, in which case a bear market, lower household wealth and reduced consumer spending could lead to a recession in 2001. DRI placed the probability of this sequence of events at 40%.

In May, 2001, this office revised its 2001-03 tax collections estimates downward by 2.2%. The revision was based on 2000-01 general fund tax collections through April, 2001, and on revised national economic forecasts that were less favorable than those at the start of the year. The May, 2001, U.S. economic forecast prepared by DRI-WEFA (a subsidiary of Global Insight, Inc. that was formed by integrating DRI and Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates) reported growth in nominal gross domestic product (GDP) in 2000 of 7.1% and projected increases of 4.4% in 2001, 4.5% in 2002 and 5.8% in 2003. The May forecast was for lower growth rates for each year, as compared to the January, 2001, forecast. Other indicators (including real GDP, personal income, consumption and corporate profits) were also generally lower in the May forecast, while unemployment and inflation were generally higher. As in the January, 2001, forecast, DRI assigned a 40% probability that a recession would occur in 2001.

By July, 2001, the forecasts for growth during 2001 were again being revised downward. That trend accelerated in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11. On November 26, 2001, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a non-profit research organization that tracks dates of business cycles, officially declared that the expansion was over and that the economy was in a recession. NBER placed the start of the recession in March, 2001. The debate over whether or not there would be a recession was replaced with the question of how long and severe the downturn would be.

The January, 2002, forecast by DRI-WEFA anticipates that the first quarter of 2002 will see the bottom of the recession, with gradually accelerating growth during the rest of the year, followed by relatively strong growth in 2003. However, as compared to the May forecast, economic activity is expected to be significantly weaker throughout the forecast period, especially in 2002. Growth in nominal GDP is expected to be 3.3% in 2001, 1.9% in 2002 and 6.0% in 2003 (as compared to the May figures of 4.4% in 2001, 4.5% in 2002 and 5.8% in 2003). Growth in real GDP is projected at 1.0% in 2001, 0.6% in 2002 and 3.7% in 2003, in contrast to the May, 2001, forecast of 2.0%, 2.4% and 4.0% growth for the same periods, respectively.

Under the current forecast, personal income is projected to grow at rates of 4.8% in 2001, 2.2% in 2002 and 5.2% in 2003. The estimate for 2001 is slightly higher (0.2%) than the May forecast. However, growth for the next two years is lower than the May forecast, by 2.2% in 2002 and by 0.5% in 2003. The low personal income growth in 2002 reflects the significant job losses that have already occurred as well as anticipated future layoffs. However, there are signs that the worst of the job losses may be nearing an end. The average workweek increased in December, and initial claims of unemployment have been trending downward. It is anticipated that employment will stop falling in early 2002 and then slowly recover during the rest of this year and into the next. This improvement is reflected in the personal income growth rate projected in 2003, which exceeds the projected rate in 2002 by 3.0%.

The January forecast assumes growth in personal consumption expenditures of 4.8% in 2001, 2.3% in 2002 and 6.1% in 2003. These growth rates are lower than the May forecast by 0.5% in 2001 and 2.6% in 2002, but exceed the May forecast for 2003 by 0.4%. Following a slow holiday season for retailers, DRI-WEFA expects consumer demand to remain sluggish going into 2002. On the positive side, taxes have been cut, energy prices are down and interest costs are lower, raising household disposable income. However, unemployment has risen and layoffs are continuing. Mortgage interest rates have recently gone up. The decreased use of zero-percent financing on new vehicles, which led to strong consumer spending in the fourth quarter of 2001, will bring a downturn in automobile sales at the start of 2002. Given these factors, DRI-WEFA expects a drop in real consumer expenditures in the first quarter of 2002. While it is projected that recovery in consumer markets will be underway in the spring, the outlook changes when considering only consumer goods that are generally subject to the sales tax. Sales of such taxable goods are expected to decline by approximately 1.0% for the entire first six months of 2002, with only slow growth throughout the second half of the year.

Pre-tax corporate profits are expected to decline 16.2% in 2001, followed by growth of 2.6% in 2002 and 11.8% in 2003. The estimates for 2001 and 2002 are significantly lower than the May forecast (which was -5.0% in 2001 and 5.3% in 2002), reflecting weakness in trade and business investment. Industrial production fell in 13 of the last 14 months, as consumer demand weakened and inventory liquidation occurred. Continued declines in nonresidential construction are projected throughout 2002 and into the first quarter of 2003. However, it is expected that businesses will soon start rebuilding inventories (which DRI-WEFA estimates will begin in the first quarter of 2002). Investments in equipment and software are expected to show positive growth by the third quarter of the year, with investments in structures recovering in the fourth quarter. It is anticipated that these influences will help pre-tax corporate profits rebound in 2003 with growth that is 5% higher than the 6.8% rate projected in May.

Inflation is expected to remain relatively low. The consumer price index is estimated at 2.9% for 2001, 1.9% in 2002 and 2.6% in 2003. The estimates are slightly lower for 2001 and 2002, by 0.4% and 0.1%, respectively, and 1.0% higher for 2003 than the May projections. The unemployment rate is projected at 4.8% in 2001, 6.2% in 2002 and 5.9% in 2003. The estimates for 2002 and 2003 exceed the May projections by 0.6% in 2002 and 0.3% in 2003. The jobless rate is expected to peak in the summer of 2002.

DRI-WEFA anticipates that the magnitude of both the economic downturn and the recovery will be relatively modest. Under the baseline forecast, it is assumed that the bottom of the recession will occur during the first quarter of 2002. The peak-to-trough decline in real GDP is estimated at 0.6%, which is relatively small compared to past recessions. It is expected that the federal tax cuts approved before the terrorist attacks, the increased federal spending on education, security, defense and intelligence approved after September 11 and monetary policy that has enhanced liquidity and kept interest rates low will all aid in the economic turn-around. The forecast also assumes a reversal in business inventory liquidation, which has been underway since February, 2001, starting in the first quarter of 2002. In addition, DRI-WEFA projects that expenditures on travel and leisure activities will rebound as the impact of September 11 begins to fade.

The major risks to the forecast are for a more protracted downturn in investment, resulting in additional layoffs and inventory liquidation, and that federal spending will not be able to be ramped up as quickly as is expected. A deeper U.S. recession could also aggravate the global recession and cause already sliding U.S. exports to fall further. Under this scenario, DRI-WEFA assumes that the beginning of the recovery would be pushed back until summer and would follow a deeper drop in real GDP than is assumed under the baseline forecast. The forecast assigns a probability of 30% to this scenario. An additional significant risk is that consumer and business confidence could be shaken by further terrorist attacks or other negative developments in the war on terrorism.

Table 2 shows a summary of national economic indicators drawn from the January, 2002, forecast by DRI-WEFA.

TABLE 2
Summary of National Economic Indicators
DRI-WEFA, January, 2002
(\$ in Billions)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Nominal Gross Domestic Product	\$9,872.9	\$10,196.5	\$10,387.1	\$11,007.0
% Change	6.5%	3.3%	1.9%	6.0%
Real Gross Domestic Product	\$9,224.0	\$9,319.2	\$9,374.4	\$9,721.2
% Change	4.1%	1.0%	0.6%	3.7%
Consumer Price Index	3.4%	2.9%	1.9%	2.6%
Personal Income	\$8,319.2	\$8,720.5	\$8,910.5	\$9,374.3
% Change	7.0%	4.8%	2.2%	5.2%
Personal Consumption Expenditures	\$6,728.4	\$7,050.3	\$7,213.4	\$7,650.9
% Change	7.7%	4.8%	2.3%	6.1%
Pre-Tax Corporate Profits	\$845.4	\$708.2	\$726.8	\$812.2
% Change	2.7%	-16.2%	2.6%	11.8%
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.8%	6.2%	5.9%

General Fund Tax Projections. Our estimates of general fund tax revenues for the 2001-03 biennium are based on tax collections to date and the January, 2002, DRI-WEFA forecast of national economic growth. In addition, all of the tax law changes adopted by the Legislature in Act 16 are reflected in these estimates. Projections of general fund tax collections for the 2001-03 biennium are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3

**Projected General Fund Tax Collections
(\$ in Millions)**

<u>Source</u>	<u>2000-01 Tax Collections</u>	<u>Budget Estimates (Act 16)</u>		<u>Revised Estimates January, 2002</u>	
		<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>
Individual Income	\$5,156.5	\$5,455.5	\$5,687.1	\$5,220.0	\$5,330.0
General Sales and Use	3,609.9	3,750.6	3,975.1	3,680.0	3,830.0
Corporate Income & Franchise	537.2	594.2	606.3	480.0	535.0
Public Utility	239.2	244.0	250.0	253.7	257.4
Excise					
Cigarette	243.5	300.4	306.6	296.4	304.6
Liquor and Wine	35.5	35.9	36.8	35.1	36.2
Beer	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4
Tobacco Products	11.4	14.5	16.2	14.0	15.5
Insurance Company	89.0	90.0	92.0	87.0	90.0
Estate	77.1	110.0	91.0	85.0	67.0
Miscellaneous Taxes	<u>54.7</u>	<u>56.6</u>	<u>60.3</u>	<u>57.6</u>	<u>59.6</u>
TOTAL	\$10,063.4	\$10,661.2	\$11,130.9	\$10,218.2	\$10,534.7
Increase Over Prior Year					
Amount		\$597.8	\$469.7	\$154.8	\$316.5
Percent		5.9%	4.4%	1.5%	3.1%

As shown in Table 3, general fund tax revenues are estimated to total \$10,218.2 million in 2001-02 and \$10,534.7 million in 2002-03. These amounts are lower than the estimates used in Act 16 by \$443.0 million in the first year and \$596.2 million in the second year of the biennium. Individual income taxes, sales taxes, corporate taxes and estate taxes have all been revised downward significantly, based on recent collections data and the new economic forecast, while utility tax estimates are slightly higher. Small decreases are projected for most of the other tax sources.

Revised General Fund Tax Estimates

Individual Income Tax. The current estimates of individual income tax collections are \$5,220.0 million in 2001-02 and \$5,330.0 million in 2002-03, which are lower than the estimates used in Act 16 by \$235.5 million in 2001-02 and \$357.1 million in 2002-03. Compared to prior years, the revised estimates reflect growth of 1.2% in 2001-02 and 2.1% in 2002-03. The decreases in the estimates compared to Act 16 are due to the fact that the economy is now in a recession, which was not expected under the May forecast. As noted, the current DRI-WEFA forecast of national personal income growth is 4.8% for 2001, 2.2% for 2001 and 5.2% for 2003. The earlier estimates were based on the May, 2001, forecast of personal income growth of 4.6% for 2001, 4.3% for 2002 and 5.7% for 2003. The current forecast projects that a higher proportion of personal income will come from transfer payments (such as social security, public assistance and unemployment benefits) than was projected in May. Transfer payments are generally nontaxable. The reestimates reflect both the lower growth expected in personal income and the shift toward more transfer payments.

Through December, 2001, income tax collections were 1.4% higher (\$30.7 million) than at the same time last year. Withholding payments, which make up the largest source of income tax revenues, have increased by 3.1% since last year (although the Department of Revenue believes that some of this growth is a matter of faster receipt of withholding payments as a result of the electronic funds transfer system that more employers are using to remit such payments). On the other hand, estimated tax payments, which reflect non-wage incomes, are 5.1% lower than at this time last year. In addition to economic factors, the slow growth in 2001-02 also reflects the final phase of implementing the income tax reductions adopted in the 1999-01 biennial budget (1999 Act 9).

The estimates of individual income taxes do not reflect a reduction that would occur in 2002-03 if the State of Minnesota were to withdraw from the income tax reciprocity agreement it has with the State of Wisconsin. Under the agreement, taxpayers who live in one of the two states and work in the other state are only required to file a return and pay taxes in the state of legal residence. As a result, Wisconsin foregoes tax revenue from residents of Minnesota who work here and Minnesota foregoes tax revenue from Wisconsin residents who work in Minnesota. On an annual basis, in December, Wisconsin reimburses Minnesota for the estimated amount of net foregone tax revenues to Minnesota in the prior year (which results in large part because more people live in Wisconsin and work in Minnesota than vice versa, so Minnesota loses more tax revenue by not collecting it directly from Wisconsin residents). The income tax reciprocity agreement is open-ended and may be unilaterally terminated by either state through legislative repeal. Governor Jesse Ventura has proposed ending the agreement, beginning in tax year 2003. If the Minnesota Legislature approves the repeal, Wisconsin would experience revenue losses in the first two fiscal years after the change, as described below.

If the agreement were terminated effective January 1, 2003, Wisconsin would stop withholding tax from Wisconsin residents working in Minnesota and begin to withhold tax on earnings of Minnesota residents working in Wisconsin. Based on preliminary information from the Department of Revenue, the change would reduce Wisconsin income tax collections in 2002-03 by an estimated \$27.5 million. In 2003-04, the cost to Wisconsin would be greater as there would be

the loss in tax revenues as well as the December payment to Minnesota for calendar year 2002. The Department estimates a net loss for 2003-04 of \$56.5 million. However, for 2004-05 and thereafter, the annual decrease in Wisconsin's withholding payment receipts would be balanced by the elimination of the annual reconciliation payment to Minnesota.

General Sales and Use Tax. Sales tax revenues were \$3,609.9 million in 2000-01, up 3.1% over the prior year. Revenues are estimated at \$3,680.0 million in 2001-02 and \$3,830.0 million in 2002-03, which is a decrease of \$70.6 million in the first year and \$145.1 million in the second year, relative to the Act 16 estimates. The revised projections are based on current collection data and the most recent forecast of growth in personal consumption expenditures, with adjustments for expenditures on food, gas and oil, and services to more closely reflect Wisconsin's sales tax base.

Year-to-date, sales tax collections through December were up by approximately 8.5% over the level collected during the same period of the prior fiscal year. However, this figure significantly overstates actual growth, since it is based on an artificially-low collections figure for December, 2000, that resulted when revenues that normally would have been reflected in that month were instead "booked" in January, 2001. When adjusted to correct for this anomaly, the current year-to-date level of growth becomes 4.5%. It is likely that this pace of growth is due in significant part to activity generated by zero-percent financing in the motor-vehicle industry and price reductions in the retail sector during the 2001 holiday shopping season and cannot be sustained for the balance of the fiscal year. This pattern is reflected in the economic forecast, which calls for a drop in taxable consumption expenditures of about 1% during the remainder of 2001-02, with only slight growth anticipated to occur in the first two quarters of 2002-03. Growth is expected to accelerate substantially in the second half of 2002-03.

Corporate Income and Franchise Tax. Corporate income and franchise tax collections were \$537.2 million in 2000-01, which was \$26.8 million less than estimated last May. The reduction reflected the slowdown in the economy and a related decrease in corporate earnings and profits. Collections are projected to be \$480.0 million in 2001-02 and \$535.0 million in 2002-03. These amounts represent an annual decrease of 10.6% in 2001-02 and an increase of 11.5% in 2002-03 and are lower than the Act 16 estimates by \$114.2 million in 2001-02 and \$71.3 million in 2002-03.

The new estimates reflect lower than anticipated corporate franchise tax collections and the effects of the economic slowdown on the state's economy. Through December, collections were almost 19% lower than 2000-01 collections for the same period. Consumer spending, investment, corporate earnings and profits have all declined during the year and are expected to remain soft during the first part of 2002. However, in part due to significant doses of monetary and fiscal stimuli, the economy is projected to begin to rebound in the second quarter of 2002. Corporate profits are forecast to increase beginning in the latter part of 2002 and in 2003 and 2004. Consequently, corporate income and franchise tax revenues are estimated to increase between 2002 and 2003.

Public Utility Taxes. Public utility taxes were \$239.2 million in 2000-01 and are projected to total \$253.7 million in 2001-02 and \$257.4 million in 2002-03. The projections are \$9.7 million

higher for 2001-02 and \$7.4 million higher for 2002-03 than the Act 16 estimates, based on recent collections data and forecasts of energy usage.

Excise Taxes. Cigarette excise tax revenues are estimated to be \$296.4 million in 2001-02 and \$304.6 million in 2002-03. The first-year estimate is an increase of 21.7% over the 2000-01 actual total of \$243.5 million and is due to a tax increase of \$0.18 per pack that took effect on October 1, 2001. Actual volume (packs sold) continued its historical trend of moderate decline in 2000-01, with this trend expected to continue. The revenue increases now estimated are somewhat weaker than those anticipated at the time of Act 16's passage; they reflect downward revisions of \$4.0 million and \$2.0 million for 2001-02 and 2002-03, respectively.

Estimates of revenues from the liquor, tobacco products and beer taxes have been revised downward to reflect generally lower consumption levels than those anticipated earlier. Estimates of tobacco products tax revenues reflect an Act 16 increase in the tax rate from 20% of the manufacturer's price to 25%.

Insurance Premium Taxes. Insurance premium taxes increased from \$86.9 million in 1999-00 to \$89.0 million in 2000-01. Premium taxes are projected to decrease to \$87.0 million in 2001-02 and then increase to \$90.0 million in 2002-03. The projected decline in 2001-02 reflects year-to-date monthly premium tax collections through December, which are lower than 2000-01 for the same period. The increase in premium tax revenues in 2002-03 is based on expected moderate growth in life and property and casualty insurance sales.

Estate Tax. Estate tax revenues totaled \$77.1 million in 2000-01, and are estimated at \$85.0 million in 2001-02 and \$67.0 million in 2002-03. The estimates are lower than the Act 16 amounts by \$25.0 million in 2001-02 and \$24.0 million in 2002-03.

Annual estate tax collections are significantly affected by the settlement, or lack thereof, of a small number of large estates. Collections may, therefore, vary considerably from year to year. The Act 16 estimate assumed that estate tax revenues would be \$110.0 million in 2001-02 and \$91.0 million in 2002-03. [The lower figure for 2002-03 reflects the reduction in state estate tax collections as a result of the federal law changes under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.] However, actual collections for 2000-01 were \$77.1 million, which was a 42.2% decrease from the prior year. Based on year-to-date collections and the current economy, estate tax revenues have been reestimated at the lower figures shown above.

Miscellaneous Taxes. Collections from the real estate transfer fee have been revised upward for 2001-02 relative to the Act 16 estimates, due to strong collections through December, 2001. The same level of growth is not expected to continue in 2002-03, however, resulting in a small downward shift in expected revenue from the fee for that year, relative to the Act 16 estimate. Anticipated collections from the court suit tax are down slightly in both years from the Act 16 estimates. In 2000-01, the two taxes brought in combined revenues of \$54.7 million.

Departmental Revenues and Net Expenditures

It is projected that departmental revenues (non-tax receipts) will be lower than previous estimates by \$9.7 million. Although increases are projected in a number of areas, these increases are offset by a reduction in interest earnings because of lower interest rates. It is important to note that the estimate of interest earnings factored into this memorandum assumes that the Legislature will take steps necessary to balance the 2001-03 general fund budget.

On the appropriation side, it is now anticipated that net expenditures will be below the projections of Act 16 by \$24.6 million. For the biennium, sum sufficient appropriations are projected to increase by \$27.8 million while appropriated amounts expected to lapse to the general fund are above the biennial budget estimates by \$52.4 million. Included in the increased lapse estimate is \$28.3 million, which is anticipated due to the 3.5% reduction to a number of state operations appropriations that the Governor announced in December, 2001, for the 2001-02 fiscal year.

In addition to the sum sufficient and lapse projections, mention should be made of some appropriations and programs which might require attention in the upcoming legislative floor periods.

It is estimated that medical assistance (MA) benefit costs will exceed the amount budgeted for the program by approximately \$30 million GPR in 2001-02. This estimate is based on a review of MA benefits payments to December, 2001, adjusted to reflect recent increases in the projected number of MA recipients. Most of the caseload growth is due to increases in the number of applicants that meet AFDC-related MA eligibility standards. The Act 16 MA base reestimate assumed modest growth in the number of AFDC-related MA recipients in 2001-02 and 2002-03. However, as of December 1, 2001, the number of AFDC-related MA recipients (approximately 167,100) exceeded the projected 2001-02 fiscal year average (148,800) by 18,300. In addition, projected benefit costs for some services, including nursing home and hospital services and capitation payments to health maintenance organizations, are expected to exceed Act 16 estimates. The costs of providing some services and benefits, such as home health services and prescription drugs, are expected to be somewhat less than the Act 16 projections. Based on current trends in caseload and service costs, a similar shortfall in GPR MA benefits funding is likely to occur in 2002-03. Caseload growth may also result in some spending pressure on the BadgerCare program.

Act 16 provides \$25,249,000 GPR in 2001-02 and \$28,097,800 GPR in 2002-03 in a sum certain appropriation to fund: (a) adoption assistance payments to families that adopt children with special needs to assist in the cost of care for these children; and (b) payments to families and facilities that provide foster care to children for whom the state serves as guardian. Based on actual payments through December, 2001, it is estimated that an additional \$1.8 million GPR in 2001-02 and \$2.5 million GPR in 2002-03 will be needed to fully fund state foster care and adoption assistance payments in the 2001-03 biennium.

The administration is currently negotiating with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) about the state's claiming federal MA matching funds under the intergovernmental transfer (IGT) program. The results of these negotiations could significantly affect the amount of funding available to support MA costs in the current biennium and in future years. The primary issues of these negotiations are: (a) whether the state will be required to return approximately \$83.2 million in federal MA matching funds the state claimed in 1999-00; and (b) the amount of federal MA matching funds the state will be able to claim in the future under the IGT program. To date, the state and CMS have not reached an agreement.

We will continue to monitor tax collections, economic forecasts and expenditures and keep you apprised if any further modifications are necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob". The letters are stylized and cursive.

Robert Wm. Lang
Director

RWL/sas

cc: Members, Wisconsin Legislature