



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: April 26, 2011

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: **Statement on County Board File 11-179/11-227 regarding redistricting**

I am returning to you unsigned County Board File 11-179/11-227.

The County Board on April 21, 2011 adopted a resolution to approve a draft staff plan for redistricting the Milwaukee County Board.

Many in the community have raised serious concerns about the speed with which the board made a decision on this issue, and I share their concerns. Unfortunately, the process and the final outcome seemed intent on preserving the status quo. I strongly considered vetoing this measure, but it appears that a veto would not be sustained.

With at least two supervisors retiring the board missed a real opportunity to streamline its structure and demonstrate that it understands that when families have to do more with less in this difficult environment, so too should Milwaukee County.

The board bears ultimate responsibility for determining its own size and I respect the prerogative of the board in this matter. Unfortunately, this plan was rushed through the deadline and leaves Milwaukee County with a much larger and therefore more expensive County Board than the national average.

Chris Abele, County Executive