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Ald. Michael J. Murphy
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Aldermen Ask Senate Support For Restoring City's Shared Revenue

*In Letter Ald. Murphy Makes Case For Putting Back \$3.6 Million,
D'Amato Agrees*

Gov. Jim Doyle's state spending plan compromise includes zero new aid to local governments, effectively creating a \$3.6 million hole in the City of Milwaukee's 2008 budget.

But today Ald. Michael J. Murphy, chair of the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, asked Wisconsin state senators directly for their help in restoring the \$3.6 million in new aid to the city as part of the state budget.

In a personal letter sent to each of the six Milwaukee area members of the state Senate, Ald. Murphy said the state is shirking its responsibility to Milwaukee and other state municipalities by not fairly distributing revenue as part of the State Shared Revenue Program, which prohibits local governments from developing other revenue streams through various non-property taxes. He notes that for 2007 state shared revenue directed to Milwaukee is \$10 million less than the 2003 level, and that since 1996 – in inflation-adjusted terms – state shared revenue to the city has declined \$73.2 million or 23%.

"While the City of Milwaukee has kept its end of the State Shared Revenue program bargain for nearly a century; the State has not," Ald. Murphy's letter states. Alderman Mike D'Amato echoed the concern of his colleague. "In this State budget deadlock legislators from all over the State are holding out for their districts and their constituents. We should expect no less from our Milwaukee delegation. Shared revenue allows Milwaukee to control property taxes and retain critical services. Those are high priorities for us all."