

Dear AWTA Members,

Happy New Year! The 2017-2018 legislative session is in full swing, and there is no shortage of major issues impacting the tourism industry.

We wanted to reach out to you regarding an important event taking place March 16, 2017. AWTA will once again join forces with the Wisconsin Association of Convention and Visitors Bureau (WACVB) to conduct our Day at the Capitol. The tentative plans call for a morning briefing at the Madison Club, meetings at the Capitol, then lunch. We will send more details later.

Your participation in this event is incredibly important to our efforts in Madison, and we encourage as many of you to participate as possible.

We are dealing with three major issues so far this session:

1. **School Start Date:** This topic is once again being discussed in Madison. The Department of Public Instruction has made a request in their budget to the Governor for a change in the September 1 start date. In response to this, we have had meetings with the Governor's office as well as Legislative Leadership. The Governor has not yet released his budget, but we are working hard to keep this change out of the budget.
2. **Transportation Funding:** This continues to be a major topic in Madison as the Governor and the Assembly have staked out different positions on funding. AWTA continues to call for new revenue sources for roads to ensure construction projects are completed on time.
3. **Personal Property Tax:** AWTA has joined the Personal Property Tax Coalition to make a request to remove the personal property tax. The coalition supports exempting new equipment from the personal property tax effective in the 2017 tax year, and a phase-out of the remaining items subject to the personal property tax over 10 years. The coalition does not support a shift to real property taxes, and further believes municipalities should be reimbursed for lost revenue.

Thank you again for your continued support this season. For scheduling purposes please contact us of your attendance by February 24, 2017.

Eric Knight
608-772-0661

Eric Knight | etk@knightpublicaffairs.com | Association of Wisconsin Tourism Attractions | 405 Panther Ct. | Whitewater, WI 53190