

Wisconsin State Legislature the authority to enact legislation to create local government and establish the framework within which local governments operate.

Ten Wisconsin cities currently have the council-manager form of government which was first authorized in 1919.

This year, the city of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, celebrates the 50th anniversary of its adoption of the council-manager form of government. The council-manager system has served the city well, and I am pleased to congratulate Fond du Lac on this significant milestone.

Interestingly enough, Fond du Lac was the last city in Wisconsin to have the commissioner form of government, which featured three commissioners and a mayor, all elected, with the commission directly supervising city departments. Fifty years ago there were increasing questions about the effectiveness of this form of government. While local political issues made some sort of change appealing, there was growing popularity across the country at that time for the council-manager form of government, which the city of Fond du Lac ultimately adopted.

Often cited as an advantage of the council-manager model is the balance achieved between professional management of daily operations and policy decisions made by elected officials. While ultimate control of the government lies with elected officials, functional experts provide professional management of daily operations.

Robert McManus was the first city manager appointed by the city council in 1958. Mr. McManus was followed by Henry Buslee, Myron Medin, Daniel R. Thompson, Jack Howley, Stephen T. Nenonen, and Tom Ahrens. Thomas Herre, who was most recently appointed in 2005, currently serves in this key leadership role. Of this group, Myron Medin was Fond du Lac's longest serving city manager, serving from November of 1967 through August of 1983.

On the occasion of this noteworthy anniversary, it is important to commend the members of the Fond du Lac city council over the last

50 years for the care they have taken in appointing those who have served as city manager and in efficiently and effectively supervising the city's affairs. Of historical interest, it is fitting to note that James Megellas, a highly decorated World War II hero and native son of Fond du Lac, was the first city council president to preside under this new form of government.

I hope you will join me in congratulating the City of Fond du Lac and its citizens on the 50th anniversary of their adoption of the council-manager form of government.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, WEST IN ACTION AGAINST FREMANTLEMEDIA NORTH AMERICA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, the most successful and profitable television show in this country is "American Idol", produced by FremantleMedia North America. "American Idol" and other FremantleMedia productions entertain many millions worldwide with the promise of providing an opportunity for young talented people to display their abilities and be rewarded for their hard work.

That is why it is such a shame that FremantleMedia refuses to offer the same basic opportunity to its writers and other employees. The California Labor Commissioner has recorded claims from "American Idol" and other FremantleMedia employees totaling more than \$300,000 in unpaid wages and unsafe working conditions. The State Labor Commissioner has conducted serious investigations into FremantleMedia productions and has even been forced to cite the company for failure to pay overtime to their employees.

Madam Speaker, I have watched "American Idol" with my teenage daughter on many oc-

casions. I am well aware of its impact on society and the enormous profits it generates for Fox Television and its producers and advertisers. In 2007, the show allegedly generated over \$200 million in profits for the Fox network, while FremantleMedia's worldwide profits exceeded \$1.8 billion.

Why then, are they unable to pay a fair and equitable wage to its employees who provide the written content or other services that make these shows so successful? In an April 2008 filing with the California Department of Labor Standards, "American Idol" employees reported working 15–20 hour days, 7 days a week and FremantleMedia avoided paying any overtime by declaring that a substantial majority of their employees are "exempt." In addition to failing to abide by California's wage and hour statutes, FremantleMedia refuses to offer most of their employees access to health coverage. For such a popular and profitable show, I find this behavior reprehensible.

American reality show fans should not be confused. The reality is, "reality" shows are written. The plot lines, the banter between personalities, the contests that are at the heart of the shows; all are created by talented members of the creative community. These individuals should be paid fairly and like other American workers, allowed to join a guild to collectively bargain on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, no one wants to shut "American Idol" down. All I am asking, all the American people are demanding, is that those talented Americans who create content for these vastly profitable enterprises be paid fairly with industry-standard benefits and in accordance with federal and state laws. We are asking that one of the country's most popular and profitable shows treats its employees with the respect and dignity they deserve. You can bet that the on-air personalities who read the words are paid dearly. It's time that Fremantle allow those who put the words in their mouths simply be allowed to be represented at the bargaining table.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 22

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Bruce Donley, of Virginia, to be Secretary, General Norton A. Schwartz, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Chief of Staff, and General Duncan J. McNabb, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States Transportation Command, all of the United States Air Force.

SR-325

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ways for America to gain energy security.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine global warming, focusing on an update on the science and its implications.

SD-406

Finance

To hold hearings to examine Indian governments and the tax code, focusing on maximizing tax incentives for economic development.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving performance relating to a review of pay-for-performance systems in the Federal Government.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 23

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the midwest floods, focusing on ways to determine what happened and how to improve managing risk and responses in the future.

SD-406

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs, focusing on responding to the needs of returning United States Guard and Reserve members.

SR-418

9:45 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the status of existing federal programs targeted at reducing gasoline demand, focusing on additional proposals for near-term gasoline demand reductions.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Christopher Swan, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti, Alan W. Eastham, Jr., of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, and W. Stuart Symington, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine information sharing, focusing on connecting the dots at the Federal, State, and Local levels.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine courting big business, focusing on the Supreme Court's recent decisions on corporate misconduct and laws regulating corporations.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine person-centered care, focusing on reforming services and bringing elderly citizens back to the heart of society.

SD-562

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of J. Patrick Rowan, of Maryland, and Jeffrey Leigh Sedgwick, of Massachusetts, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, and William B. Carr, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Children and Families Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine childhood obesity, focusing on declining health of America's next generation (Part II).

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carol A. Dalton, Anthony C. Epstein, and Heidi M. Pasichow, all of the District of Columbia, all to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

JULY 24

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of James A. Williams, of Virginia, to be Administrator of General Services Administration.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine crimes associated with polygamy, focusing on the need for a coordinated state and federal response.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 30

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), focusing on impending congressional oversight.

SD-226