



REPRESENTATIVE JANET BEWLEY

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

Assembly Bill 426

March 4, 2014

Let me begin by thanking Representative Ripp for giving this bill a hearing. I have been working on this bill with Senator Jauch and appreciate all the work he and Senator Petrowski have done to get this bill to this point.

As you all know, Wisconsin has a long and proud Olympic tradition, a tradition that is growing every day. The small town of Cable, known for the annual Birkebeiner cross country ski race, has hosted two International Paralympic events in the last two years and has just been awarded the 2015 International Paralympic Committee Nordic Skiing World Championship.

Under Assembly Bill 426, revenues generated from the sale of specially designed license plates that include the USOC logo would be used to support Wisconsin facilities and organizations that have strong partnerships with the USOC. The revenue would be split between the Pettit National Ice Center in West Allis, which is an official US Olympic Training Site and the Central Cross Country Ski Association of Verona, which is an official Community Olympic Development Program that operates in partnership with the Cable Area Chamber of Commerce and the USOC.

Senator Jauch and I have worked very closely with both the Department of Transportation and Senator Petrowski's office to make sure that this legislation will not cost taxpayers any money and will only be activated once the sponsoring organizations have raised the initial set up costs, which is estimated to be between \$9,000 and \$10,000.

Several other states, including Michigan, have made similar agreements with the USOC and have been able to raise revenue to support USOC events. Our bill simply puts Wisconsin on the list as another state that embraces the presence of Olympic events and training, and supports the partnerships their communities are building with the USOC.

Thank you for consideration of Assembly Bill 426.



74th Assembly District