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STATE SENATOR • 17<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

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## **TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 590**

Thank you to the Senate Committee on Revenue, Financial Institutions, & Rural Issues for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 590 relating to the sales and use tax exemption for commercial radio and television station property.

Last session, 2013 Wisconsin Act 346 was passed on a bipartisan basis in both houses of the legislature. This law created a sales tax exemption for certain commercial radio and television equipment used in creating various types of programming.

The intent of this law was to provide independently owned broadcast stations with some economic relief, with the hopes that this would broaden their reach and bolster their capabilities. After the bill was signed into law, in the course of determining how this new exemption would be implemented, the Department of Revenue decided that the tax exemption would not apply to radio and television towers, broadcast transmitters, and satellite trucks because they are not exclusively used for the origination of programming. This equipment is essential for any television or radio station.

This bill simply clarifies that the tax exemption created in 2013 Wisconsin Act 346 would apply to television towers, broadcast transmitters, and satellite trucks.

I would like to thank the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association for their support of the bill. The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association is present to answer any technical questions regarding their equipment and operations. I am happy to take questions from committee members at this time.