

The boom in the natural gas industry has resulted in increased demand for Wisconsin sand. Does Wisconsin adequately regulate silica dust produced during sand quarrying? Client: Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The federal government will soon take the gray wolf off the endangered species list giving Wisconsin more flexibility in managing its wolf population. What policies should Wisconsin adopt to balance the preservation of the wolf population with the interests of farmers and hunters? Client: Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The National Traffic Safety Board recently recommended that states adopt laws banning cell phone use while driving. Consider changes in Wisconsin laws concerning use of cell phones and other electronic devices while driving. Client: Chair, Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Transportation

Tort law has traditionally limited damage awards for the death of pets to their market values. Wisconsin courts have barred claims for higher damages based on emotional distress (*Rabideau v. City of Racine* 2001). Should the legislature change Wisconsin tort law to allow for recovery of damages in excess of the market value of pets? Client: Chair, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce, and Government Operations

Currently, those wrongfully imprisoned in Wisconsin receive a maximum payment of compensation of \$25,000. Recent legislation (2011 Senate Bill 141) would increase this limit. How should those wrongfully imprisoned be compensated? Client: Chair, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce, and Government Operations

Does Wisconsin have adequate safeguards for protecting the health of student athletes who have suffered concussions? Should the Senate adopt or amend 2011 Assembly Bill 259? Client: Chair, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Public Health, Human Services, and Revenue

Wineries in Wisconsin are limited to holding a single retail liquor license, either Class A or Class B. Should Wisconsin law be changed to allow wineries to hold a larger number of retail licenses? Client: Chair, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Workforce Development, Small Business, and Tourism

Regulation of payday loans is set out in 2009 Wisconsin Act 405. Does this law provide appropriate regulation of lenders and maximum interest rates before and after the date of maturity? Client: Chair, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Rural Issues

The Wausau-based Aspirus hospital system is considering opening a medical school. It would be the third medical school in Wisconsin. It would require state approval. Should the state encourage or discourage this effort? Client: Chair, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Health

Planned renovations of Memorial Union on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus require an alternative stop for Van Galder buses. Should the City of Madison use this opportunity to create a central bus terminal for all the bus lines serving Madison? Client: Mayor Paul Soglin

Although Wisconsin and Minnesota are comparable in many ways, Wisconsin has more than twice as many incarcerated adults and spends more than twice as much as Minnesota on adult corrections. To what extent does this disparity result from length of sentences? Should Wisconsin reduce the length of prison terms for some or all classes of felonies or reinstate the good time provisions that were recently repealed? Client: Chair, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs

U.S. Corporate taxes are based on profits. A possible alternative, taxing capitalized value, has been suggested. (See, David L. Weimer (2002) A Better Corporate Tax? *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 21(4), 693–696.) Develop alternatives for implementing a capitalization tax and compare them to the current corporate tax. Client: Chair, Joint Committee on Taxation, U.S. Congress.

Currently, there is a very small fee imposed in the United States on stock transaction to fund the operation of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Consider taxes on stocks or other financial instruments that would raise substantial revenue for the federal government. Client: Chair, Joint Committee on Taxation, U.S. Congress

Currently, the federal government provides substantial subsidies for medical education through higher payments under Medicare to teaching hospitals. Consider and analyze alternatives for restructuring the program so as to increase the proportion of medical school graduates going into primary care. Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Although dental care is covered by Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, children in low-income families tend not to receive recommended levels of dental care, including dental sealants that have preventive value. Consider changes in federal policy that would result in more covered children receiving recommended dental care. Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Currently, the United States issues dollars in both paper and coin format. Should either of these forms of currency be abandoned? Client: Secretary, United States Department of the Treasury

Many researchers believe that the practice of giving antibiotics to healthy farm animals contributes to antibiotic resistance. Should the federal government adopt policies to restrict the prophylactic or non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in agriculture? Client: Chair, United States House Subcommittee on Health, Committee on Energy and Commerce

Despite the adoption of laws criminalizing female genital cutting in many African countries, the practice remains ubiquitous. Imagine that the Gates Foundation is willing to invest \$100 million dollars over the next 10 years to identify interventions that would reduce or eliminate female genital cutting through changes in cultural norms. Propose alternatives for the use of these funds. Client: President, Global Health Program, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Some researchers believe that consumption of sweetened beverages contributes substantially to childhood obesity. Should the federal government impose an excise tax on sweetened beverages? Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

The number of reported prescription drug shortages in the United States nearly tripled between 2005 and 2010. Some of these shortages resulted in steep price rises above contract prices. Should the Food and Drug Administration be given more authorities or resources to prevent prescription drug shortages? Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

The Senate has constitutional responsibility for confirming judicial and high-level executive appointments made by the president. Increasingly, the Senate fails to confirm or confirms only after a long delay. Consider Senate rule changes to streamline the confirmation process that could possibly receive sufficient support to be adopted. Client: Majority Leader, United States Senate

The housing sector remains a drag on the U.S. economy. Many homeowners still owe more on their mortgage than the current value of their homes. Some proposals have been made to require mortgage holders to write down the principal of the loan so that it can remain serviceable for mortgagees. For example, mortgage holders might be required to rewrite mortgages so they equal no more than 80 percent of equity. The remaining 20 percent would be covered as a zero interest loan and the mortgagee and the mortgage holder would equally share any equity gains on this fraction of equity when the property is sold. Consider alternatives for implementing such mortgage write-downs. Client: Director, President's Domestic Policy Council