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February 7, 2014

The Honorable Scott Walker
Governor of Wisconsin
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to use the power of your office to compel the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to cause demolition activities as part of the I-794 Lake Freeway/Hoan Bridge reconstruction project to be scheduled and performed in a manner that voluntarily complies with local noise ordinances.

The jackhammering and other demolition work by WisDOT relating to the removal of the existing bridge deck has been occurring both day and night—often as late as 3 a.m. This work is having a devastating impact on the quality of life of the residents of the adjacent Historic Third Ward neighborhood.

We have raised these concerns with local WisDOT officials. They have indicated they have no intention of complying with local noise ordinances and intend to continue night and early morning demolition work for "quite some time." I find this response simply unacceptable. The noise is so bone-jarring and psychologically destructive that video footage taken by residents of their experiences sounds disturbingly similar to a shock-and-awe bombing campaign in the Iraq War.

On behalf of the residents of the Historic Third Ward, I implore you to exercise the power of your office to cause the immediate and sustained voluntary compliance with local noise ordinances by WisDOT as the I-794 Lake Freeway/Hoan Bridge reconstruction project progresses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Bauman
Alderman, 4th District

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