



Russ Decker

Senate Majority Leader

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Decker Statement on Governor's Vetoes

Senate Majority Leader Russ Decker (D-Weston) issued the following statement after Governor Doyle released his vetoes to the budget repair bill:

“I am disappointed that Governor Doyle vetoed the low-income housing provision. This would have ensured low-income housing owners will continue to provide housing projects for low-income families, the elderly and the disabled. It also would have let owners reinvest in those properties so they do not become slums and update the older properties to install needed improvements such as guardrails for bathtubs.

“His reasoning for the veto was inaccurate. The issue had a public hearing in both houses. The provision in the budget repair bill was nearly identical to SB 403, which passed the State Senate unanimously. The only difference to the language in the budget bill was a small provision that merely clarified the status of about 30 WHEDA properties. All of those properties are already exempted from property taxes. The bill was based on recommendations from a Legislative Council study.

“It is unfortunate that the additional \$77 million secured by our congressional delegation after we passed the state budget will be used simply to maintain our current level of spending rather than to address additional transportation needs as Congress intended. It will be difficult to convince Congress to send us more funding for our crumbling roads and bridges in the future if we don't use it to do additional transportation improvements.

“With the economy already struggling, transportation projects are a sure fire way to protect Wisconsin jobs that pay family-supporting wages. It's one of the best ways to keep Wisconsin workers employed and Wisconsin businesses moving forward.

“My colleagues and I will continue to examine the budget vetoes over the next few days to determine their full effect.”

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