

Ott and Vukmir Release Good Faith Bill
Representative Ott and Senator Vukmir Release Bill to Give Brewer Plate Money Back to Counties

Contact: Jim Ott: (608) 266-0486
Leah Vukmir: (608) 266-2512

Representative Jim Ott and Senator Leah Vukmir have introduced legislation requiring monies generated through the sale of Milwaukee Brewer License Plates be returned to the vehicle's county of origin when the Miller Park District dissolves and the 0.1% stadium tax ceases to exist. Under current law, those dollars go to paying down Miller Park District's debt.

"This bill is a sign of good faith on the part of the legislature," said Ott (A member of the Miller Park Board.) "Many people believe the five county tax will never go away, but it will when the districts dissolves and we are putting mechanisms in place for that day."

Currently, when a Milwaukee Brewer License plate is purchased an annual \$25.00 fee is added to the registration fee, minus a 2% licensing fee to Major League Baseball. Total revenues from license plate fees now generate nearly \$250,000 annually and the monies are directed to the Miller Park District to pay off the bonds incurred to build Miller Park Stadium. No mechanism was put in place for designation of the additional \$25 fees when the district dissolves.

"After bonding obligations are fulfilled, counties in the greater Milwaukee area will be among the beneficiaries of any additional dollars generated from the sale and registration of Brewers specialty plates", said Vukmir.

When Miller Park opened in 2001, the Miller Park District had payment obligations of \$524 million. As of December 31, 2016, the obligation is \$66.1 million or an 87% decrease.

"The proposed legislation sends a clear message that the Legislature has no intention of extending the Miller Park sales tax," said Don Smiley, Chairman of the Miller Park District Board of Directors, "and has no intention of using the Miller Park Sales Tax for other purposes."

The Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District, or the Miller Park District, was created by 1995 Wisconsin Act 56 to oversee the design and construction of a new stadium for the Milwaukee Brewers. The Miller Park District is authorized to enter into contract, manage its baseball facilities and impose a sales and use tax rate of no more than 0.1% to help pay for the debt incurred for the construction of Miller Park.