

Romaine Quinn

State Representative • Serving the 75th Assembly District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Quinn Bills Pass Senate, Head to Governor's Desk

Rural Wisconsin Initiative Hailed as Significant Step

Madison, WI – Representative Romaine Quinn (R – Rice Lake) hailed the Senate's passage of two bills he authored for the Rural Wisconsin Initiative.

Assembly Bill 793 expands the teacher loan forgiveness program to include rural teachers. Wisconsin currently offers a loan forgiveness grant program through the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) for teachers in urban Milwaukee, forgiving loans of up to \$30,000. This bill gives schools a powerful incentive to bring teachers to rural schools, by being able to enroll rural teachers in the loan forgiveness program.

“We can't allow rural schools to slip behind urban or suburban schools, and we know that a good education starts with a great teacher. Allowing equal access to this loan forgiveness program will ensure that all students in our state have the opportunity to learn from the talented teachers we are producing,” said Rep. Quinn.

Assembly Bill 820 creates a Broadband Forward! Community standard that makes it easier for municipalities to encourage internet projects. This legislation standardizes planning, zoning, and permitting processes, and registers the municipality as a “gold star” community that is ready for broadband projects. This makes our communities more enticing to both public funding and private companies that are looking for partners.

The Rural Wisconsin Initiative, started by Reps. Quinn, Ed Brooks, and Tranel, includes other pieces of legislation aimed at improving rural opportunities in education, the workforce, health care, and technology. Several legislators have joined in supporting the plan, including Reps. Joan Ballweg (Markesan), Kathy Bernier (Chippewa Falls), Mary Czaja (Irma), James Edming (Glen Fora), Joel Kitchens (Sturgeon Bay), Scott Krug (Nekoosa), Bob Kulp (Stratford), Tom Larson (Colfax), Jeff Mursau (Crivitz), John Murtha (Baldwin), Lee Nerison (Westby), Todd Novak (Dodgeville), Warren Petryk (Eleva), Keith Ripp (Lodi), John Spiros (Marshfield), Rob Swearingen (Rhineland), Gary Tauchen (Bonduel), and Nancy VanderMeer (Tomah).

“It's time for rural Wisconsinites to speak with one voice in Madison,” said Rep. Romaine Quinn, who contributed legislation to the plan. “The Rural Wisconsin Initiative will serve as an umbrella to galvanize rural legislators to bring our issues to the capitol and ensure that the issues that affect us every day are addressed. We have so much of the same talent and potential: it's time that rural Wisconsin children had the same opportunities as kids in Milwaukee or Madison.”

To learn more about the Rural Wisconsin Initiative and other bills proposed in the package, please visit www.RuralWisconsinInitiative.com.

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