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GREATER GREEN BAY
CHAMBER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chamber supports Representative Steffen's proposal to relocate Green Bay Correctional Institution

Green Bay (April 20, 2017)- Representative David Steffen submitted a budget proposal to the Joint Committee on Finance to relocate the Green Bay Correctional Institution (GBCI) by November 1, 2022. The proposal would be considered for inclusion into the 2017-2019 state budget. This proposal would address several growing concerns over the safety, overcrowding and increasing operational and capital costs of the 119-year-old facility.

The Green Bay Correctional Institution has out lived its use as a prison and is now costing taxpayers more than a new facility would. Over the next ten years, the operational expenses for GBCI would total \$428 million and capital expenses would add another \$199 million to taxpayers' expense. These total expenditures would do nothing to address the overcrowding and safety concerns for this facility.

The cost to continue to operate this facility is significant, however, the potential to redevelop and repurpose the historical structures, and 60-acre parcel, would provide the village of Allouez and Brown County with a great opportunity to grow the economy and create new jobs. The Village has estimated the property could generate \$80 million in economic development.

"GBCI sits on probably the most valuable corner in all of Brown County, having excellent access to highway infrastructure," said Jayme Sellen, the Chamber's Government Affairs Director. "We see great potential for repurposing this site and are thankful for the efforts of Representative Steffen to tackle many of the challenges this site currently presents."

Established in 1882, the mission of the Greater Green Bay Chamber is to strengthen member businesses, enhance economic and workforce development, and improve the quality of life in our community and region. For more information, call 920.437.8704 or visit greatergbc.org.

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