



# KEITH RIPP

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 42<sup>ND</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release  
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## Wisconsin's Comeback is Real, Ongoing, but Not Guaranteed *New Report Praises State's Economic Turnaround, Raises Concern about Infrastructure Investment*

**Lodi, WI-** Wisconsin continues to climb in Chief Executive Magazine's rankings of the best states for business, placing 11th this year. While the trend continues to be positive, State Representative Keith Ripp (R-Lodi) says we should heed its warning signs, too.

"The Wisconsin comeback is real, we've improved 30 places in this survey's rankings since 2010," said Ripp. "But we need to look at the full story, not just the headline. We have a looming transportation crisis that must not be ignored."

The magazine took a swipe at Wisconsin for its lack of commitment to infrastructure and roads. They are not alone.

Last week, a report by the nonpartisan research group TRIP "[Wisconsin Transportation by the Numbers](#)" documented the cost of deficient roads to Wisconsin and specifically motorists. Wisconsin motorists are paying thousands of dollars to maintain their vehicles in part because 42 percent of major roads in the state are in mediocre to poor condition.

"We've done some great things to turn our economy around, unemployment is down, participation in the workforce is up, and we're poised for better things in the future, but we still have work to do," said Ripp. "We need to ensure we are investing in a safe, reliable transportation infrastructure or all our recent economic gains are at risk."

Ripp said he and his fellow Republicans have paid back the errant raids on the transportation fund and that voters rightly protected it from future pilfering via a statewide referendum in 2014. Yet, while the state still has significant transportation needs, Wisconsin ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> nationally in the amount the average motorist pays annually in transportation fees.

Going forward, Ripp said he pledges to work with local leaders and his colleagues in the legislature to ensure Wisconsin's infrastructure is strong enough to propel Wisconsin's economic rankings even higher.

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