



**DALE KOOYENGA**  
STATE SENATOR · 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

State Capitol · P.O. Box 7882 · Madison, WI 53707-7882 · (608) 266-2512

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June 28, 2019

The Honorable Tony Evers  
Governor, State of Wisconsin  
115-East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI

Dear Governor Evers,

I write to respectfully request that you keep intact the income tax reductions contained in the budget and not veto these significant reforms. Last year we both campaigned on many issues including the need to reduce the tax burden on Wisconsin's middle-class. The budget bill before you delivers that promise.

The income tax cut provisions contained in amended Assembly Bill 56 represent a middle ground between what was proposed in your budget and what my colleagues and I would prefer. I believe we have similar intentions: to reduce the burden on taxpayers, particularly on the lower and middle-class. However, your proposal targeted these groups by increasing refundable tax credits and creating a credit for low income Wisconsin residents. I believe this strategy only further complicates an already convoluted system.

Instead, we prefer simplification. The ideal strategy would have been to decrease taxes in proportion to taxes paid. I believe Wisconsin is already a high tax state and that taxes should be decreased in accordance with the individuals who pay. However, I believe the tax cut in the budget proposal before you reflects a healthy compromise.

It provides relief to the lower and middle-class families who need it most. As a percentage of taxes paid, the largest decrease will go to a Wisconsin family that makes approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year.

In addition to the tax provisions in the budget, the legislature worked closely with Department of Revenue Secretary Barca and his team to refine AB 251. As a result, the bill passed both the Senate and Assembly with unanimous support. By combining both proposals, the bottom two tax rates will decrease significantly. This results in a lower tax bill for all Wisconsin residents paying income taxes.

As you know, Wisconsin will realize increased revenue over the biennium. In a budget that spends \$81.7 billion, it is not unreasonable to return \$500 million, which is just 0.6% of the budget, back to the hardworking families that provided us revenue in the first place. It signals to Wisconsinites that as our economy grows, so does our opportunity to lower their tax burden.

Just as government always has priorities, so do our families, seniors, and everyone in between. It's time to return their money back to them.

Please know that I am available should you like to discuss these matters with me. I look forward to you signing these tax cuts into law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dale P. Kooyenga" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dale P. Kooyenga  
State Senator  
5<sup>th</sup> Senate District