



July 6, 2021

Governor Tony Evers  
P.O. Box 7863  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Evers,

I am writing on behalf of Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice to urge you to veto two important items in the budget bill that has come to your desk. These items – the income tax cut and the cuts to the transportation budget – will do great damage to our economy which will disproportionately harm low-income people, people with disabilities, and communities of color.

As an interfaith organization, we believe in justice, equity, and compassion. We believe that government exists to provide and protect basic human rights and services for all residents. And we believe that all people deserve to live lives of dignity, economic security, and well-being.

The regressive tax cut in this budget will benefit the wealthy but do little to nothing to help hard-working low-income Wisconsinites. Almost half of tax filers would get no benefit from the legislature's tax cut plan. Although 52% of Wisconsin tax filers make less than \$40,000 per year, they get just 1.1% of the benefit of the tax cut, while people with income over \$200,000, who comprise just 4% of Wisconsin's tax filers, would get nearly one third (32.7%) of the income tax cut. This is clearly unjust and inequitable.

Further, the revenues lost in this tax cut could instead have gone to increase badly-needed funding for education, provided funding for mass transit, funded broadband access for rural and inner city municipalities, and so many other priorities that would have benefited the people of Wisconsin and built up our economy.

The cuts to transit are an additional blow to people of color, low-income people, the elderly, the disabled, and anyone who, for whatever reason, does not drive. A veto of these cuts would bring us back to base level funding, which is already insufficient, but better than the cuts. Cutting transportation funding is short-sighted, as access to transportation is one of the determinants of access to jobs, education, health care, and recreation, and therefore is a key driver of a robust economy. It is further short-sighted in reducing efforts to deal with climate change.

Wisconsin needs a budget that works for all its residents, not just the wealthy few. So many priorities were cut from the original Badger Bounce Back budget proposal, in favor of this deeply regressive and hurtful budget. While we recognize the difficulties in vetoing the budget in its entirety, we hope you will consider these two targeted vetoes, which will do much toward bringing some degree of equity back into the budget.

Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of the people of Wisconsin.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rabbi Bonnie Margulis".

Rabbi Bonnie Margulis  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice  
608-513-7121