



SENATOR JANET BEWLEY

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

TO: All Legislators

DATE: September 14, 2016

FROM: Senator Janet Bewley

RE: Legislation to Repeal an Ineffective Handout to Millionaires and Increase Transportation Aids to Counties and Municipalities - LRB 5045

I plan to introduce legislation in January to address the glaring need for supporting local roads that are essential to Wisconsin citizens and businesses. LRB 17-5045 will repeal the costly Manufacturers and Ag tax credit giveaway that has proven to be as ineffective as it is unfair to working taxpayers who cannot qualify but are forced to pay for it.

We have read, and more importantly seen, numerous examples of the pressing need to reinvest in local transportation. And we've all read the accounts of the tax "credit" that is slated to hand over \$20 million to just 11 people. All told, the Manufacturers Tax Credit is set to hand \$209 million to less than 1/2 of one percent of taxpayers, with absolutely no requirement for job creation.

My proposal will repeal that handout and return the money to local communities for Transportation needs - \$104.5 million to Wisconsin counties and an equal amount to our state's towns, villages and cities.

A recent memo from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau showed this handout to be ineffective as a job creation tool. Wisconsin workers gained 2/3 fewer manufacturing jobs in the three years they've been forced to bankroll this giveaway than they did in the three years before it took effect in 2013. Clearly, investing this \$209 million in our roads would be far more effective for Wisconsin's economy than continuing this failed giveaway.

Wisconsin's economy wasn't built on handouts to millionaires. It was built on hard work and prudent investment in our future. It's time to shift from ineffective giveaways to the wealthy and return our focus to working taxpayers and working infrastructure.

I will make this bill available to incoming legislators for co-sponsorship ahead of next session but wanted to give my colleagues this early opportunity to support local roads for the hard-working taxpayers who sent us to Madison to work for them. If you would like to sign on to this legislation please respond to this email or call my office at (608) 266-3510.



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