

SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. BOX 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

September 21, 2016

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos
Wisconsin State Capitol
211 West
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Speaker Vos:

Last week the Department of Transportation released its proposed budget, which renews our focus on prioritizing safety and maintenance, keeping bonding at a reasonable level, and delivering a budget with no tax or fee increases. The proposal comes two months before its usual release to enable the public to engage with policymakers on these important issues.

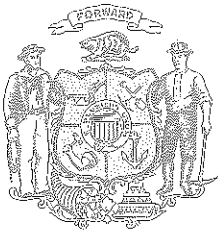
This budget proposal includes some of the largest local aid increases in over 15 years, and the bonding levels are the lowest since the 2001-03 budget, resulting in a 41% reduction in borrowing from last session. Debt service levels remain in line with recommendations from the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission. The transportation budget is a good start and solid foundation to build a fiscally responsible budget proposal to be introduced in February.

Now that we have led with a full transportation budget, we welcome constructive input over the next several months on a proposal that Wisconsin citizens expect – safe and strong roads at a price they can afford now and into the future.

I do believe that Republican leadership should stand with the taxpayer. I am willing to consider alternatives and options that do not grow the size of government. I believe we can agree that we did not get elected as conservatives to raise taxes or fees.

We have worked together before when confronted with such challenges and difficult choices. In 2011, we tackled a \$3.6 billion budget deficit and outstanding bills from the previous administration. Through Act 10, we introduced common-sense reforms allowing us to rightly put power back into the hands of Wisconsinites, save taxpayers billions of dollars, and turn the budget deficit into a surplus so we could move Wisconsin forward.

We've also worked together to ensure everyone who wants a job in Wisconsin can find a job by removing barriers to employment and ensuring our young people have access to the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in our workforce. And it's working – there are more people working in Wisconsin this year than ever before in our history.



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On transportation, we have more work to do. I have responded to legislative concerns on bonding, supported audits of the agency to protect the taxpayer, and put forth a plan with our priorities for a full discussion. I am willing to consider any specific alternatives from Assembly leadership that live within taxpayer means and look forward to hearing such alternatives in the coming weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Walker".

Scott Walker
Governor