



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## **Sen. Howard Marklein and Rep. Tony Kurtz Call on State Agencies to Finish Flood Recovery Efforts**

**MADISON**— State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and State Representative Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) sent letters to two state agencies today asking them to finish their recovery efforts as the legislators continue to assist communities recovering from the flooding in August 2018.

“Nearly every week I hear from my constituents in the Town of Seven Mile Creek asking me when they will receive their reimbursement check for repairs that were needed because of the flooding that occurred more than three years ago,” Kurtz said. “The community has waited for more than five months for a check since submitting the final paperwork without being given a timeline for when they can expect the review to be complete. This is unacceptable.”

“We have had nearly 100 phone calls with local communities as they navigate the complex process to receive full reimbursement from the 2018 flooding repairs,” Marklein said. “Unfortunately, a refrain that we keep hearing is that WEM has not been proactive in helping our communities secure the money they deserve. We implore WEM to help our communities recover.”

Kurtz also stated, “The Elroy-Sparta Trail is one of the most popular trails in the state, yet it remains partially shut-down. Our constituents are sick and tired of the political games, bureaucratic incompetence, and delays.”

“Every day that the trail remains closed is another day that visitors and tourism dollars are not flowing into Juneau County and Monroe County,” Marklein said. “It is time for the DNR to fully re-open this trail now.”

The first letter was sent to Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) asking WEM to quickly finish the review of the project for the Town of Seven Mile Creek in Juneau County that has been sitting at WEM for more than five months. In addition, the letter asked WEM to be more proactive in reaching out to communities to ensure they have been fully reimbursed.

The second letter was sent to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asking the agency to open the six mile stretch of the Elroy-Sparta Trail that is still closed as quickly as possible. The section of the trail has been closed since August 2018 and repairs have been hampered by bureaucratic delays and funding issues.

Copies of the letters are attached to this release.

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