



ROBIN J. VOS

SPEAKER OF THE WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

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For Further Information Contact:
Speaker Robin Vos (608) 266-3387

Speaker Vos Calls Out Senators for Fear Mongering

Madison...Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) released the following statements after Senators Duey Stroebel and Chris Kapenga stated inflated hypotheticals generated in response to his [Road Work Ahead](#) video release.

“While it’s laudable that Senators Kapenga and Stroebel say they’re relying on their CPA and business experience to analyze what they describe as the transportation fund’s spending problem, they’re deliberately ignoring the other side of the balance sheet in favor of politics and fear mongering,” said Speaker Vos.

Fact #1: Senators Kapenga and Stroebel favor a [plan](#) to borrow \$500 million.

- With that new half billion in borrowing, they’re advocating delaying desperately needed repairs that will further hinder commerce and emergency personnel in this state.
- The senators support increasing the debt service to nearly 25% of the transportation budget, making future generations have to pay for our inability to find a sustainable solution and increasing costs on future projects. It is not more conservative to borrow and spend than it is to actually raise the revenue and allocate it efficiently.

Fact #2: No one is suggesting a 91% gas tax increase. The suggestion of this is nothing short of fear mongering.

- As my colleagues in the Assembly and I have consistently said, we favor an all options approach which includes auditing the DOT to find waste, studying tolling options and looking at other revenue options, if necessary.

Fact #3: Even though Senator Stroebel claims he doesn’t believe it, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau did the analysis that said that Prevailing Wage reforms would account for up to 1% of DOT savings.

- It’s hard to believe, then, that this is a serious approach by Senators Kapenga and Stroebel, when moments before Stroebel’s statement he put forth his own LFB memo to support his own points. He can’t have it both ways. He either believes LFB or he doesn’t.

“Instead of using selective accounting and Madison math, I’m choosing to use my 20+ years of business and negotiating experience to look at the problem globally. Instead of cherry picking my own facts and fear mongering, I will work in good faith to work toward the best possible solution to this problem, taking into account all options available,” said Speaker Vos.

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