

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

July 20, 2017

The Honorable Scott Walker Wisconsin State Governor 115 East, State Capitol HAND DELIVERED

Governor Walker,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Senator Scott Fitzgerald and Speaker Robin Vos to seek a solution to address the transportation needs of our state. I know we all agree that our roads and highways are the lifeline to our businesses and the backbone of our state. The proposal that you outlined yesterday is a positive step forward in our desire to find a long-term solution and we believe the leadership that you have displayed has bridged the gap between our two houses. The Wisconsin State Assembly majority leadership team has deliberated on your suggestions and accept your proposal.

The Wisconsin State Assembly has stood strong on finding a comprehensive solution to our transportation funding challenges; we have to reduce the more than \$1 billion deficit and continue to improve our state's infrastructure system. We believe the broad framework that you provided is responsible because it acknowledges that the state should not issue more transportation bonds without having a sustainable way to pay for that debt.

We believe this compromise utilizes our current resources wisely by taking all or a significant portion of the proposed income tax cuts from this budget and using the savings to provide funding for the transportation system. In addition, you have offered the possibility of no new transportation bonds, which we appreciate. However, we understand there is a possibility of new bonding based on future federal appropriations and revenue-supported bonding.

The offering of your proposal demonstrates your dedication to solving the transportation challenges. As our roads crumble beneath us, the need for an efficient, fully funded system increases, ensuring vital projects stay on track and finish on time. As the legislative session continues, we look forward to continued discussions with the goal of finding a long-term, stable solution.

As we continue to work on the budget, Assembly Republicans will prioritize money saving reforms as well as initiatives that keep our state competitive. This budget proposal makes an historic investment in K-12 education, lowers the property tax burden on Wisconsin families, and continues to protect our most vulnerable populations. Using these shared priorities we hope to see a renewed effort to negotiate in good faith and pass a budget in the very near future.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Rep. Robin Vos Assembly Speaker

Rep. Jim Steinek Majority Leader

Rep. Tyder August Speaker Pro Tempore

John Nygren Assembly JFC Chair

Rep. Robert Brooks Assistant Majority Leader

Caucus Chairman

Rep. Romaine Quinn Assistant Caucus Chair Sergeant-at-arms

Rep. Jessie Rodriguez Caucus Secretary

Rep. Dale Kooyenga Assembly JFC Vice Chair

Rep. Mary Felzkowski

JFC Member

Rep. Mark Born JFC Member

Rep. Amy Loudenbeck JFC Member

Rep. Mike Rohrkaste

JFC Member

CC: Members of the Wisconsin State Senate