



DUEY STROEBEL

STATE SENATOR • 20TH DISTRICT

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Secretary-Designee Craig Thompson Misses the Mark *Evers' DOT Pick wants to raise costs for local road projects*

Madison, WI – Senator Duey Stroebel (R-Cedarburg) released the following statement in response to Department of Transportation Secretary-designee testimony on prevailing wage before the Joint Committee on Finance:

The fact that DOT Secretary-designee Craig Thompson supports Governor Evers' budget proposal to reinstate prevailing wage in Wisconsin should be very concerning for all local officials and taxpayers. The repeal of prevailing wage was a major victory for taxpayers and local governments that is just starting to pay dividends following its full implementation in September 2017.

When asked about the impact of reinstating prevailing wage for local taxpayers, Thompson ignored the additional reforms that will take effect in July of this year. These recent reforms will concentrate federal dollars into fewer projects, allowing a greater number of projects to be exempt from the federal prevailing wage requirements. These reforms will expand the number of projects that benefit from the repeal of Wisconsin's prevailing wage, allowing for greater cost savings for local governments and their taxpayers.

Thompson also argued that without prevailing wage contractors will perform subpar work on local projects. This claim is disingenuous and is insulting to local highway commissioners and non-union contractors. The repeal of prevailing simply lowered costs, it did nothing to impair or restrict the ability of local officials to inspect and oversee their projects. This type of fear mongering may have worked when Secretary-designee Thompson answered to the road builders, but it's not what my constituents expect from a government official.

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