FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   Contact: Rep. Joel Kitchens
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Rep. Kitchens pleased with Eagle Tower funding

MADISON, Wis. – Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) is pleased that the Wisconsin State Building Commission voted today to provide more funding for the replacement of the former Eagle Tower at Peninsula State Park in Door County.

The commission's actions will release an additional $1.4 million for the new observatory tower. The project had been bid out twice, but the lowest figure was still about $1.4 million more than what was available. That $1.4 million will now be covered by bonding from a different project that came in under budget.

"I am relieved that we are finally able to move forward with replacing the iconic Eagle Tower," Rep. Kitchens said. "When added together, Peninsula State Park and Devil's Lake State Park account for 70 percent of the total revenue that comes from our state park system. Because the vast majority of people who visit Peninsula State Park will climb this tower, all of the other state parks across Wisconsin will also benefit."

The original Eagle Tower, built in 1932, was razed in 2016 because of public safety concerns related to severe decay that was found throughout the structure. The Friends of Peninsula State Park and local community members raised $750,000 for the new tower with additional financial support coming from the state and a federal grant.

"I know there are many out there who feel nostalgic about the former Eagle Tower, but I am confident those same people will embrace the new structure once it is completed," Rep. Kitchens said. "Furthermore, the new observatory tower will be fully accessible for individuals with physical disabilities at all viewing levels, so even more people will be able to take in the beauty of Peninsula State Park."

The state Department of Natural Resources believes there is a chance that construction on the tower could begin in late fall.

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