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Teleworking on the Taxpayer's Dime

Madison, WI – Two weeks ago, the Department of Administration (DOA) <u>announced</u> the Evers administration's plans to reopen the State Capitol on July 13, pursuant to Phase II of the <u>State</u> <u>Government Badger Bounce Back Plan</u>. However, the Evers administration is continuing to "strongly recommend" that state employees work from home. State Senator Duey Stroebel (R – Cedarburg) issued the following statement regarding the announcement:

"I was pleased to see the Evers administration commit to a date to reopen the State Capitol to the public. However, I remain disappointed with the lack of transparency surrounding the work arrangements for the tens of thousands of state employees who have been receiving their paychecks in full throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic."

"My office was informed several weeks ago that the vast majority of state employees were working from home under Phase I of the 'State Government Badger Bounce Back Plan.' It appears the tax dollars paying for office space for our state agencies will continue to be wasted for Phase II and the foreseeable future."

"The Department of Administration has yet to respond to my office's request from four weeks ago for a breakdown of the number of state employees who are reporting to work in-person versus the number continuing to report from home. With hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites making difficult sacrifices as their livelihoods have been upended, we need to know if taxpayers are getting value out of indefinite telecommuting."

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