



**WISCONSIN TOWNS  
ASSOCIATION**  
Empowering Town Officials

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For Immediate Release  
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## **Senator Marklein Receives Friend of Towns Award**

Senator Howard Marklein of the 17th Senate District was recently awarded the 2019-20 Friend of the Towns Award at the Sauk County Unit Meeting of the WTA for his efforts supporting town government.



“Senator Marklein was instrumental in a tremendous number of the legislative session outcomes that positively impacted towns”, said Mike Koles, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Towns Association. “His idea to create a \$1,000 per mile one-time investment in town roads prompted what would eventually become a grant program that provided nearly \$30 million for town road infrastructure.”

Senator Marklein also played a pivotal role in the largest ever increase in General Transportation Aids (GTA), addressing a GTA funding formula challenge, and a \$48 million investment in rural broadband. Additionally, he helped lead a collaboration between local government and agriculture that advanced a discussion about how Wisconsin can go about eventually revising the livestock siting law.

Friends of town government share a core belief that the best decisions occur in a decentralized system and closest to the people. They understand that local government leadership is the fuel for inventive solutions to public sector challenges and the key to unlocking the power of democracy.

WTA President Jerry Derr commented, “Senator Marklein is extremely connected to town government and rarely misses a county unit meeting. He is extraordinarily accessible and always willing to learn about how he can help towns overcome challenges and take advantage of opportunities”.

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