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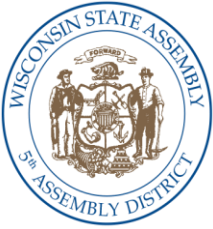
Steineke Directs Federal Aid to Broadband, Long-Term Care Facilities, Small Businesses

MADISON – State Representative Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna) voted to direct federal aid dollars to priorities important to northeast Wisconsin, including expanding broadband access, supporting long-term care facilities’ staff and patients, and propping up small businesses impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The package of 11 bills were all approved during the Assembly’s April floor period this afternoon.

“Today’s bills are a signal that we are listening to Wisconsinites from every corner of the state – not just Madison and Milwaukee – and fighting for their priorities back in Madison,” said Rep. Steineke. “Investing in things like broadband, our elderly, and our local economies here in the Fox Valley will make a huge difference for our communities for years to come.”

With Wisconsin expected to receive \$3.2 billion as part of the federal American Rescue Plan, Assembly Republicans unveiled their spending priorities earlier this month, including:

- **Aid to Households:** \$1 billion to provide a 10% payment to all property taxpayers
- **Small Business Assistance:** \$200 million for small business grants
- **Tourism Assistance:** \$50 million for tourism grants and \$25 million for advertising grants for amusement parks
- **Rural Economic Development & Farmer Assistance:** \$50 million for rural economic development grants and \$50 million for farmer support funds
- **Long-term Care Assistance:** \$150 million for grants for nursing homes and assisted living facilities and worker bonuses
- **Strengthen Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund:** Requires the use of recovery funds to keep UI taxes at lowest tax schedule
- **Local Road Funding:** \$308 million to give \$2 million per county and \$2,000 per road mile to cities, villages and towns for road improvements
- **Broadband Expansion:** \$500 million in broadband expansion grants
- **EMS and Mental Health:** \$68.2 million for EMS technology upgrades and a psychiatric hospital in Eau Claire
- **Debt Repayment:** \$250 million to pay down state debt and \$250 million to pay off transportation revenue bonds
- **Clean Water Investments:** \$61 million for water infrastructure projects



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“Having heard from so many of our neighbors about the hardships they’ve endured over the last year, it is our duty to make sure the influx of dollars from Washington are going to the priorities that are critical to helping our communities come back better and stronger,” continued Rep. Steineke. “I am hopeful that Governor Evers will do what’s right for the people of Wisconsin, not just his liberal hubs.”

With the Fox Valley known for its tourism industry, Rep. Steineke also supported the creation of a summer sales tax holiday for the hospitality industry. Additionally, he approved a resolution asking the Wisconsin Attorney General to be part of a multi-state lawsuit challenging the Federal Tax Mandate that prevents states from reducing taxes for three years.

The initiatives approved today now go to the state Senate before heading to Governor Evers’ desk.

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