Rep. Edming Backs Use of Stimulus Funding to Meet Critical Needs

MADISON – Today, the State Assembly passed a legislative package co-authored by Representative James Edming (R-Glen Flora) that allocates one-time federal stimulus funding to meet some critical needs of Northern Wisconsin. The 11 bill package provides funds for broadband expansion, supports long-term care facilities, helps rural economic development, and provides assistance to farmers, small businesses, and the tourism industry.

“These bills advance a number of critical priorities for the people I represent,” said Rep. Edming. “I am particularly excited about the funding for rural economic development and the bold funding needed to expand broadband in rural Wisconsin. This package of bills I co-authored also provides assistance for tourism and small businesses that will make a big difference for my constituents and help our area recover from the effects of the pandemic.”

This package uses the $3.2 billion coming to Wisconsin as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and includes the following:

- **Broadband Expansion**: $500 million in broadband expansion grants
- **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
- **Aid to Households**: $1 billion to provide a 10 percent payment to all property taxpayers
- **Strengthen Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund**: Requires the use of recovery funds to keep UI taxes at the 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
- **EMS and Mental Health**: $68.2 million for EMS technology upgrades and a psychiatric hospital in Eau Claire
- **Clean Water Investments**: $61 million for water infrastructure projects
- **Debt Repayment**: $250 million to pay down state debt and $250 million to pay off transportation debt

After today’s votes, this package of legislation advances to the State Senate for further consideration.

###

The 87th Assembly District includes portions of Clark, Marathon, Rusk, Sawyer, and Taylor Counties.