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Stroebel: Evers Wields Veto to Again Attack Small Businesses

Madison, WI – After Gov. Tony Evers (D) vetoed AB 191, a bipartisan bill repealing Wisconsin's antiquated and inefficient personal property tax, long-time repeal champion and bill author Sen. Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville) released the following statement:

"The governor's decision to veto bipartisan legislation repealing Wisconsin's antiquated personal property tax is an attack on the small businesses who suffer the most under this inefficient tax policy. Small businesses across Wisconsin joined together in one of the largest stakeholder coalitions that I've ever seen to plead for relief from this tax. Since 1916, studies have recommended we repeal this tax. Gov. Tony Evers placed himself on the wrong side of history with this veto.

"As our bipartisan coalition worked to pass this bill, we incorporated virtually all changes requested by the Department of Revenue from their March 25 memo. Less than 24 hours before the Assembly was convening to pass AB 191, Representative Knodl and I received an 8-page memo full of new requests. We addressed as many of these requests as we could on short notice in two floor amendments, and I gave my word directly to Revenue Secretary Peter Barca that we would work to fix any legitimate concerns that might arise during implementation. If I came to any colleague of mine with an eight-page list of demands the night before a planned floor vote, that colleague would not consider the request friendly and I could not claim to be a supporter of the bill.

"I am frustrated but not surprised by the governor's action. I will continue working on this issue as long as there is any chance for real, permanent and meaningful tax relief that benefits Main Street."

Sen. Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville) represents the 20th Senate District, which is comprised of portions of Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan and Calumet counties.

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