



---

# JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Representative Joel Kitchens

May 13, 2015  
608-266-5350

## **Joint Finance Committee Votes to Adopt Two of Rep. Kitchens' Budget Motions**

**Madison** – State Representative Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) lauded the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) yesterday after they voted to adopt two of his budget motions that restored funding to programs of great import in the First Assembly District.

The first motion restored funding to the Educational Communications Board (ECB), which is responsible for Wisconsin Public Radio and Television, among other duties. Rep. Kitchens' second motion restored funding to county land and water conservation offices, who work with farmers and other landowners to install conservation practices on the land, as well as protect drinking water, lakes and streams.

"I am very pleased with the actions of the JFC yesterday," Rep. Kitchens said. "My constituents are avid supporters and listeners of Wisconsin Public Radio and Television. When word got out that the Governor's budget proposal cut funding to the ECB, my office was inundated with calls and emails explaining how important the nonpartisan, educational programming that the ECB provides is. That is why I made it a priority to see that funding was restored."

Yesterday's 12-4 vote by the JFC reduced the drastic \$5 million proposed cut by about 50 percent to just \$2.4 million. Members of the JFC explained that the change will allow the ECB to maintain Public Radio and Television, as well as its system for public safety notices like Amber alerts.

Rep. Kitchens' second budget motion, which was accepted by the JFC, restored \$675,000 in annual funding to support county land and water conservation offices. This restoration makes up most of the reductions in staff funding that was contained in the Governor's budget.

"County Conservationists are absolutely crucial in my district," Rep. Kitchens explained. "The work they do with farmers and other property owners is so valuable for protecting our natural resources."

The restored funding will allow more farmers to work with county Land Conservation Departments to improve nutrient management, stabilize stream and lake shorelines, handle manure safely, and keep our waters clean, according to Jim VandenBrook of Wisconsin Land+Water.

"I would like to thank the JFC for approving my budget motions," Rep. Kitchens said. "More importantly, I would like to thank my constituents who reached out to me to voice their support for these important programs."

###