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Assembly Holds Public Hearing on Bill to Return Excess Stadium Sales Tax *Legislation will return millions of dollars to Brown County and its Municipalities*

Madison- Today, Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) testified in favor of a bill he authored this session that would return millions of dollars in excess stadium sales tax revenue back to Brown County and its municipalities. The bill (AB 296) received a public hearing in the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and will now move on to be considered for a committee vote, likely in the next few weeks.

“Last week the State Senate unanimously passed this bill, and I am excited to see this legislation now making its way through the Assembly. The timely and efficient method for distributing these funds back to Brown County communities, as outlined in this bill, has garnered strong bipartisan support throughout this process. This is a common sense measure for returning excess revenue back to its rightful owners, the taxpayers of Brown County,” said Rep. Steffen.

Today, Representative Steffen, along with Senator Cowles (R-Green Bay) and City of Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt, all testified in favor of this legislation before Assembly committee members. The legislation will return excess revenue to Brown County and its municipalities based on population, and will allow local leaders to determine whether funds should be used for property tax relief, tax levy related debt relief, or economic development. Today’s testimony highlighted the important role this legislation plays in providing a pathway to readily return excess funds, which was not provided for in the original legislation allowing for the sales tax referendum, 1999 Wisconsin Act 167.

The bill is now available to be schedule for a committee vote, which the Ways and Means Committee Chairman indicated will take place in the next few weeks. The full Assembly will likely vote on the bill in October, allowing for the bill to be signed into law within the year.

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