



ROBERT BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Rob Brooks supports Milwaukee Bucks arena proposal

Madison, WI—“While I personally oppose using tax dollars to subsidize professional sports, we as a legislative body must take the state’s current liability, as owners of the BMO Harris Bradley Center into account when making a final decision,” said Representative Rob Brooks. “This proposal is a win-win for the State of Wisconsin, as it creates good-paying jobs, secures income tax revenues, fosters economic development and, finally gets Wisconsin out of the professional sports business,” said Representative Rob Brooks.

“I applaud my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the Wisconsin State Senate, and members of the Joint Finance Committee for restructuring the original arena proposal outlined by Governor Walker, so as to make it less burdensome to Wisconsin taxpayers,” Representative Brooks said. “Based on the income tax brought in by the salaries of players,--roughly \$6.5 million annually—and the precipitous reduction to the state’s contribution, now less than \$70 million, thanks to a new ticket surcharge—I felt compelled to vote in favor of this proposal,” Brooks said.

If the Bucks were to leave, Wisconsin taxpayers would lose hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue and still possess a daunting financial liability. This is the case because the BMO Bradley Center is unique among professional sports venues in that it was donated by the Bradleys, to the State of Wisconsin, without any provision for the building’s long-term capital needs or annual operating expenses.

With passage of today’s bill we are out of the arena business and future liability. We eliminate, by keeping the Bucks in Wisconsin, more than \$20 million in debt and future costs that have been estimated to exceed more than \$100 million, depending on how long we kept the facility prior to tearing it down and losing the only large entertainment facility located in Southeastern Wisconsin. It is cheaper to keep them based on our obligations.

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