



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Pleased with Wins for Rural Wisconsin in State Budget**

**Madison** – After casting her vote in support of the 2017-2019 State Budget, Representative Nancy VanderMeer released the following statement:

“The state budget is the most important vote I take the entire session, and how I cast that vote it not a decision I take lightly. That’s one of the reasons I held eight, in-district listening sessions in all four of the counties that comprise the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and attended the full Joint Finance Committee Public Hearing held in Ellsworth earlier this year. I’ve had the opportunity to speak with hundreds and hundreds of you, in person and on the phone, from farmers to school district administrators, to small business owners, to healthcare professionals and others from each one of our local communities. Thank you to all of you for having an active voice in your state government.

“That said, in my experience as a business owner, I understand that in any large negotiation that includes multiple parties with varying interests, everyone simply can’t get everything they want. As a result, you have to advocate for issues you feel most strongly about, offer compromises when necessary, celebrate the wins you’re able to obtain, and also re-assess the issues for improvement opportunities that will arise in the future.

“Here are some major wins in the 2017-2019 State Budget that I’ve supported, fought for and am pleased with:

- The largest investment ever in K-12 Education with increases in state aid to school districts of \$639 million dollars over the biennium while still protecting taxpayer’s investment by directing additional money to the classroom.
- Two new programs related to student mental health:
  - 1) School Mental Health Aid to reimburse schools for costs related to providing mental health services to students, and
  - 2) Community and School Mental Health Collaboration Grants to help schools connect with area health providers to meet student needs



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- Provisions for the Department of Health Services to help educate and train allied health professionals and advanced practice clinicians in rural parts of our state. This means an increased opportunity to educate, train, and keep nurses, physician assistants, anesthesiologists, dieticians, and occupational therapists at our local hospitals and healthcare facilities.
- Increases in funding for the disproportionate share hospitals (DSH) and critical access care facilities we have in our communities.
- Small Business Protection. Requiring the Department of Revenue to use statistical sampling when auditing small businesses, ensuring the Department of Revenue is able to conduct an adequate audit while protecting small businesses from onerous, costly audits.
- The restoration of funds for the Wisconsin Institute of Sustainable Technology (WIST). The Wisconsin Institute of Sustainable Technology is the economic development and entrepreneurial arm of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. WIST is a public-private partnership between UW-Stevens Point and private industry. They support Wisconsin's agriculture, paper, food processing, and food packaging industries, among others, through collaborative research and innovation partnerships.
- A modernized fee and license structure for pesticides, fertilizers, soil or plant additives, and inspections while ensuring funding to protect our environment and reducing the bureaucratic burden on our farmers and the agricultural community.

“There are a variety of wins for Rural Wisconsin to be pleased with in the current state budget, but there’s still plenty of work to be done and I look forward to working with you as we continue to move our state forward.”

Rep. VanderMeer post budget video interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wy37Jmbi09s&feature=youtu.be>

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*The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.*