



# NANCY VANDERMEER

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

**For Immediate Release:**

**March 1, 2019**

**Contact: Rep. Nancy VanderMeer**

**(608) 266-8366**

## **VanderMeer Response to Governor's Budget Address**

**Madison** – Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) shared the following statement after Governor Tony Evers' Budget Address Thursday evening:

"I think it's important to reiterate where state finances are at going into this session's budget. We have a \$600 million surplus and the ability to spend roughly \$1.8 billion in additional funds over last session's budget, largely because of the strength of our economy. Last night, Governor Evers proposed spending about \$84 billion, which is \$9 billion more than our last budget and an 11% spending increase across the board. The two primary revenue streams mentioned were Medicaid expansion and increasing the gas tax by \$0.08 (while eliminating the minimum mark-up law). However one feels about those issues, these additional revenue streams would not get us close to accounting for a \$9 billion revenue increase. When spending outweighs revenue, that creates a deficit, and when government faces a deficit there are two options, decrease spending or increase taxes.

"As those of you who budget for your business, your farm, or your family know, responsible budgeting allows for both short and long term investments to be made, and that's a good thing. I have and will continue to be supportive of investments that positively benefit families in my district and throughout rural parts of our state. For example, there were a number of areas mentioned in the Governor's address that are important to me where I think continued attention and investment is needed, including: directing investments to rural road funding, investing in our rural schools, addressing inequities in the K-12 education funding formula, and investing in rural broadband expansion. These are key issues that I will continue to call attention to and advocate for to build upon investments that have previously been made.

"At the start of this legislative session, my colleagues and I sent the Governor and his new administration a letter outlining the areas we want to work with the new Governor on. Some of those areas included: reducing the income tax burden, enhancing high speed internet access, supporting K-12 education, expanding SeniorCare, addressing the debt level in our transportation fund, investing in our infrastructure, and attracting qualified employees to grow our economy. I remain committed to working with my colleagues and the Governor on these issues and many more that have a substantial impact on



# NANCY VANDERMEER

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

families throughout the 70<sup>th</sup> District, but I'm committed to doing so in a fiscally responsible and practical manner."

###

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