



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BETH MEYERS

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BIENNIAL BUDGET PASSES LEGISLATURE

MEYERS VOTES AGAINST BUDGET THAT IGNORES TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, STRIPS LOCAL CONTROL, AND HARMS WORKING FAMILIES

State Representative Beth Meyers (D-Bayfield) cast her vote against the biennial budget which came before her on the Assembly floor late on Wednesday night. This irresponsible budget passed by the State Assembly threatens the future of Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure, erodes local control, and suffocates the expanding tourism industry. The Majority Party's short-sighted policies and reckless "cut and borrow" tactics will harm the potential prosperity of future generations.

"Since taking office, my constituents have spent a considerable amount of time contacting me expressing their concerns with this budget, especially when it comes to adequately financing our roads. I am extremely disappointed at the Majority Party's brushing aside of our rural communities and their transportation infrastructure needs. The projected \$850 million in bonding does not address the current road maintenance needs within the 74th Assembly District," stated Meyers.

In addition to ignoring the infrastructure needs of rural communities, this budget strips local municipalities of control; particularly regarding provisions to shoreland zoning. This one-size-fits-all approach makes no sense given the great environmental diversity of our state, and authority should remain at the local county level.

"The local efforts to protect the lakes and waterways in my district should be applauded, not interfered with by bureaucrats in Madison. I have always been a strong advocate for local control and despite this setback I will continue to advocate on behalf of the 74th Assembly District," said Meyers.

Not only does the state budget seize local control with regard to shoreland zoning, but it also mandates that revenues from the highly regarded Wisconsin room tax will be changed. This contributes to our community's quality of life and represents another instance of local control being stripped away.

"It is insulting to think that the Majority Party feels the need to make cookie-cutter decisions that supersedes local decisions. The 74th Assembly District has created a thriving tourism industry here which will continue to grow because of the dedicated and intelligent citizens of Northern Wisconsin – not because of the interference of state government," Meyers stated.

"I am disheartened by the budgetary proceedings and the complete disregard for the well-being of Wisconsin citizens. From transportation cuts which will allow projects to go delayed or unfinished, trampling on local control, and decimating the future of K-12 and higher education, the Majority Party has abused the trust of Wisconsin citizens. I will continue to work to restore people's faith in our state government, and to continue to represent the best interests of Northern Wisconsin," said Meyers.