



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE DOYLE

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

94th DISTRICT

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Rep. Steve Doyle
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Rep. Doyle Makes Early Mark in State Assembly

Rep. Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska) has submitted the first two Democratic amendments to the State Budget. Both amendments are designed to remove items added to the budget by the Joint Finance Committee in the final moments of deliberation with no notice or input from the public. The Democratic Caucus decided that these amendments should be submitted first because there is bipartisan agreement that these provisions were ill-conceived and harmful to taxpayers. Both amendments were authored by Doyle and co-sponsored by Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca (D-Kenosha).

The first amendment restores the ability of the University of Wisconsin system, local schools and libraries to have access to broadband internet service. Operating under a federal grant, the University and other entities have created a system known as WiscNet, which will help bring broadband services to many rural areas for the first time. Unless the budget is amended, more than \$39 million, some of which has already been spent, will need to be sent back to the federal government.

“This provision in the current budget will devastate our universities, schools and libraries,” said Doyle. “We cannot provide a quality education system if we don’t let people share information.” We have received reports that some schools with internet budgets of \$7000 will need to increase to \$75,000,” added Doyle. “This hurts schools. It also hurts taxpayers.”

The second amendment, also authored by Doyle and Barca, will remove a provision of the Budget bill that would prohibit counties from doing highway projects for towns in excess of \$100.00.

“The current practice of collaboration is win-win,” said Doyle. “Counties are able to keep their snow plow drivers productive in the summer and towns get road projects done at a reasonable cost.”

Doyle said he is pleased that he has been asked to bring forward these issues as a freshman legislator. “These are both completely non-partisan issues, so I am hopeful my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will vote with me on these amendments and save taxpayer money.”

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