



FOR IMMEDIATE Release
Doyle
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Doyle Budget Press Release

MADISON – Representative Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska) said that he could not support the current 2013-2014 biennial budget because of the damage it will do to working-class families, public schools and the environment.

“When you hear members of the majority party calling their own budget ‘slimy,’ ‘unsound fiscal policy,’ and a deal ‘cut behind closed doors’ you know there is a problem,” said Doyle.

The “closed door deal” was a plan made by the members of the Joint Finance Committee to greatly expand the state’s private school voucher program. After weeks of debate and marathon all-night session, several high ranking members of the Committee agreed to a secret deal with no input from the Democrats on the Committee. Among other things, they agreed to give \$90 million more to private voucher schools and expand the voucher program statewide. There was no public testimony on this plan that is expected to cost \$1.9 billion a year.

“The voucher expansion is not the only bad thing in this budget,” said Doyle. “It features a tax cut that favors people making more than \$300,000 a year, increases property taxes and shortchanges public education. We even have absurd policy matters that have no place in the budget at all: allowing the state to sell state-owned property such as roads, parks and buildings, legalizing bounty hunters, and giving a tax exemption for junk mail.”

“One of my Republican colleagues said about the budget ‘In order to get [some] good things we needed to accept some really questionable things,’” said Doyle. “But these ‘questionable things’ did not have to be in the budget in the first place.”

Doyle also noted that the current budget proposal represents not only bad policy but also bad fiscal planning.

“This budget will take a \$500 million one-time surplus and will turn it into a \$500 million structural deficit. I cannot support that,” he said. “This is not a Democratic complaint or a Republican complaint. This is a common sense complaint. We need to write a balanced budget that addresses the needs of Wisconsinites without dooming future generations.”

“This is about the people of Wisconsin,” he said. “We need to make sure that everything we do is in their best interests and not in the interests of one party or another. This budget will hurt the middle class, raise property taxes and leave us with a deficit. I could not in good conscience do that to our state.”