

JILL BILLINGS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Billings Statement on Joint Finance Action on Capital Budget

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MADISON – Today, the Joint Committee on Finance took action on the Governor's Capital Budget and State Building Program proposals, which included UW-La Crosse's long awaited \$92.8 million Prairie Springs Phase II project.

"It has been a high hurdle to make it this far during the 2021-23 Biennial Budget process. This is a much-needed project which has been worked on and planned by the University for many years. This session, the Governor included it in his Capital Budget, and I proudly supported it when it came before the Higher Education Subcommittee and full State Building Commission."

"I am thankful for UW-La Crosse members and community supporters who have advocated on behalf of this project with the Governor, with the Building Commission, and with the Joint Committee on Finance. This strong advocacy has shown the support and need for this project in our La Crosse Community."

"I am disappointed that the Republican Joint Finance Committee rejected this project in our community and many other deserving projects across the state. We currently have low interest rates, aging infrastructure, and hundreds of millions in deferred maintenance projects. Now is the time to invest in our State and University System buildings, to break ground in replacing these old and in too many cases, crumbling buildings. I will continue to push for the Prairie Springs Phase II project until ground is finally broken and construction begins."

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