



SCOTT ALLEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

July 28, 2015

Contact: Representative Scott Allen

(608) 266 8580

Rep. Scott Allen (R-Waukesha) released the following statement today on Milwaukee arena bill.

“Public-private partnerships that benefit the general welfare are within the purview of public policy and worthy of consideration. When local, county, and state government entities see fit to cooperate for purposes of economic development and collectively negotiate an agreement that earns bipartisan support, such an agreement is likely in the public interest.

The bill to fund the construction of a new arena for the Milwaukee Bucks and other entertainment options in Milwaukee is an agreement that is in the public interest which is why it garnered my support today on the Assembly floor.

It might be easy to stand on some principle to oppose the funding plan. To do so, however, would be to ignore the fiscal benefits and the potential economic benefits. Over the last several months while I wrestled with the philosophical principles of public support for a private venture, the terms of the agreement have improved.

The key for me is that those who will benefit the most are contributing the most. Private investment from out of state and from within Wisconsin covers over half the cost. Public investment at the local level from the City and County of Milwaukee along with the Wisconsin Center District and the ticket purchasers collectively provides the next largest portion. Finally, the State of Wisconsin’s share of the funding formula has been reduced to a relatively small portion, and the terms of the agreement reduces the State’s long term liability with the current Bradley Center and protects the taxpayers for the next few decades.

It is my hope that the Milwaukee Bucks organization sees the value of this partnership and accepts the awesome responsibility that comes with it. The people of Wisconsin expect the Bucks to build a successful team with people of great character who will give back to the community. The people of Wisconsin expect the Bucks organization to give us a team we can be proud of and a team that can inspire us to pursue greatness. My message to the Milwaukee Bucks: the ball is in your court.”

###