



Chris Danou's Capitol Report
Legislative Days Bring Opportunities to Learn

As your State Representative, I'm always learning and meeting new people from our community, region and state in which we discuss all kinds of issues. People call my office, write letters or send emails sharing their thoughts on things taking place in Wisconsin State Government. The issues certainly do vary, but folks contact my office to state opposition or support against legislative proposals and other initiatives.

Most of the time the issues we discuss relate directly to our neck of the woods, but oftentimes those issues reflect needs, desires, concerns and goals of people from other parts of Wisconsin as well. These issues range from education, agriculture, outdoor recreation, transportation, natural resources, health care, economic development and everything in between that impacts our state.

Another way I hear from people is through face-to-face meetings for a group's annual legislative days. There are many, many groups that are officially registered with membership requirements that meet with my staff and I, but each one takes the time to arrange a meeting to discuss one or several issues or legislative proposals that are important to them, and they explain their support or opposition. This gives people an opportunity to come to Madison, visit the State Capitol and talk directly to their State Representatives and Senators about issues that are important to them. While it's not as common for individual citizens to find a time to meet or stop by my office in the Capitol, it does happen from time to time. Please know my office is always open and my staff are happy to meet if I'm not in Madison.

Last week, I had the privilege to meet with people who made the trip to Madison for the Chippewa Valley Rally and Ag Day at the Capitol. It was great to meet new people and see some familiar faces as we discussed important economic and agricultural issues facing our community and region. Even though these two groups are very different in the work they do, it's clear that both are very proud of our state, and they want to see our community become even better.

President John F. Kennedy once said that "a rising tide lifts all boats" when discussing economic policies and initiatives. In other words, we're all connected and when one of us does better or improves, others feel the positive impact as well. Whether you're a farmer in Trempealeau County or banker in Eau Claire, there are things we can do in Wisconsin that helps those business interests and others grow our economy and make our community stronger.

We don't have to look any further than our neighbor to the west of the Mississippi to see that if we make necessary investments in education, infrastructure and health care, our economy will improve and we will become an even better state. It's time for us to think more about the next generation versus the next election when making policy decisions in Madison.

