

Scott Krug

2015-2016 Legislative Update



SCOTT KRUG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 72nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am writing to you the residents of the 72nd Assembly District with an update on how this legislative session has gone. As always, I appreciate the opportunity to serve this district, the people, the businesses and families of Central Wisconsin. It is with great pleasure that I report to you we have had another very successful legislative session for the items of importance to Central Wisconsin.

As you know there were several times this session that I found myself at odds with the majority and voted no on several key bills including the state budget. In the end while I appreciate the ability to contribute to the budget bill (which does deliver some key wins for the area) but the document as a whole did not suit the needs of the 72nd Assembly District. I know in my heart that we can do better when it comes to finding a transportation funding solution and when it comes to education issues. I look forward to the next budget process to reach our goals for these topics and more.

This session I was able to achieve success in several key areas. I am particularly proud of the work done to secure the Sand Valley development project in Rome. The Family Care bill that will keep thousands of elderly and disabled individuals from losing their current providers. I continued my crusade to enable families' access to needed treatments for seizure disorders, created a yellow alert system for hit and run incidents, and authored several college affordability bills as well as environmental protection measures and public benefit program waste, fraud and abuse legislation.

These successes will bring more economic development to Central Wisconsin, will save taxpayers a great deal of money, will allow more students access to higher education and will allow more freedom in Wisconsin healthcare.

I continued my track record this session of gaining bipartisan support for the bills I authored. Each bill that I authored this session that was signed into law was passed with both Republican and Democrat support. My committee assignments reflect well on the needs of the 72nd Assembly District from Chair of Consumer Protection committee to my Vice Chair duties in Environment & Forestry and Jobs & Economy committees. It is fulfilling work and I am pleased to continue to have a positive influence.

Again, it is my pleasure and honor to serve Wood, Adams, Waushara and Portage counties. My door is always open and I look forward to many more great conversations and discussions all across the 72nd Assembly District. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Representative Scott Krug
72nd Assembly District



Keep in Touch

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SCOTT'S 2015-16 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES & COUNCILS

Chair of Consumer Protection
Vice-Chair Jobs and Economy
Vice-Chair Environment and Forestry
Colleges and University
Public Benefits Reform
Mining and Rural Development
Transportation Projects Commission

Representative Krug's 2015-16 Legislative Update

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUCCESSSES

Advocating for the needs of the 72nd District is my top priority in the Legislature. In the area of economic development, there's been some significant groundwork laid during the previous two legislative sessions and combined with the success in this session have led area unemployment rates to the lowest in over a decade. I am proud to say that many more families are back to work and our area economy continues to grow along with the rest of Wisconsin.

Topping the list of economic development wins this session is Assembly Bill 123. This legislation will put the Sand Valley Golf Resort project on a fast track towards completion. This project will feature four new golf courses, bringing with it a variety of jobs for Adams County. This is great news for Adams County as it has typically been one of the most economically disadvantaged areas of the state. Sand Valley will be one of the largest development projects in Adams County history. I am honored to have played a significant role in spearheading this project.



Sand Valley Golf Resort, Rome, Wisconsin.

Another bill I authored this session will provide both economic development and high quality standards in healthcare services. Assembly Bill 687 will allow for area managed care organizations (MCOs) to continue to serve their customers in the revised FamilyCare program passed in the 2015-2017 State Budget. In Central Wisconsin alone, Community Care of Central Wisconsin partners with 1400 area providers in a 16 county network.

LOCAL ISSUES

HOPE AGENDA

One of the highlights of this session was the State Assembly's continued work to fight heroin and prescription drug abuse. Thanks to strong bi-partisan support, we expanded funding for TAD programs which work to treat addiction issues rather than simply lock up those who have addiction problems. Our efforts have led to more rural treatment centers, additional oversight in prescription drug programs and an understanding that the more we work together to solve these challenges the better off all of Wisconsin will be. All of the communities of the 72nd Assembly District continue to face significant addiction issues, and it is our job as a Legislature to continue to aggressively combat this epidemic.



COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

One of the hot button issues facing Wisconsin families and students is college affordability. As a member of the Colleges and University committee I am pleased with the work we did to keep the price tag on higher education in check, while also working to make sure that students achieve their higher education goals on time even while still in high school.

Assembly Bill 744 will provide students and families a real time picture on the amount of money they have borrowed including information on the effect of future decisions in regards to how much they have borrowed.



I was also very excited to see the UWSP differential tuition motion passed in the state budget. I have worked on this effort each

term in office and am happy to know that this will have a positive effect on opening more course sections to encourage students to graduate on time.

Finally working with UWSP and industry leaders I was successful in maintaining funding for the UWSP paper machine. This machine trains Wisconsin's future papermakers and is critical to keeping our paper industry strong. Thank you to Sen. Lassa and Reps. Shankland and VanderMeer for their bi-partisan assistance in this effort.

Representative Krug's 2015-16 Legislative Update

This session I continued my efforts to find a comprehensive compromise solution to our community's groundwater issues. For several years now I have been able to meet with all the interested parties, gather information on what stakeholders deem important and work toward merging these concepts into state law. Here in the Wisconsin Central Sands area we face very unique challenges to our ground and surface waters.

In a vast agricultural area with producers and growers of so many products, and production facilities to turn raw product into finished product, we have an economy very dependent on agriculture. From cranberries to potatoes and vegetables we are not in a position to abandon our grower's need to access water to grow their crops.

On the other hand we have some of the best lakes in Wisconsin for recreation. We have amazingly cool, clean streams for trout fishing. Our area bodies of water are also building and maintaining our area economy. With so many properties built around our waters we have to work to maintain the recreational value, riparian rights and most importantly the property values of these homeowners.

That is why I authored Assembly Bill 477, creating Sensitive Resource Areas of the state. These designations require the DNR to develop regulatory policy for specific locations to respond to that area's individual assets and challenges. To keep some areas of the state in a very restrictive regulatory program makes little sense when we can adjust DNR resources to focus on areas that are in the most need.

Assembly Bill 477 offered specific protections for the Town of Saratoga as well. In the unique situation they are facing I worked to make sure that both the town and the developers of the proposed dairy agreed to provide at a minimum basic protections for the area bodies of water and for the individual private well owners in the area (within two miles of the project). The two sides did come together and agree. This was a monumental moment of this dialogue to actually find agreement during this intense negotiation.

In the end the Assembly passed a different groundwater bill Assembly Bill 874 which gives growers the ability to repair and replace wells that fail. DNR anticipates this happening 10 times a year. In exchange, we voted to add flow meters to these repaired wells and start the largest hydrology study in state history to determine how to create watershed by watershed regulations to conserve and share our most precious resource. Many issues surrounding high capacity wells still remain. I am committed to continuing my work in this area next session.

REPRESENTATIVE KRUG'S SESSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In addition to other measures completed this session I am proud of many other accomplishments including:

- Proposed the largest hydrology study in Wisconsin state history to get to the root of the water issues we are facing from the Wisconsin River all the way into Waushara County.
- Worked to allow families' better access to CBD Oil, a non-psychoactive substance obtained from certain marijuana plants that is highly effective in treating devastating seizure disorders in children.
- Obtained funding to prevent waste, fraud and abuse in public benefit programs.
- Created the Harvest for Hope legislation to allow for more locally grown farm foods to reach food pantries.
- Co-authored legislation to provide more funding to prevent aquatic invasive species from spreading further in our area lakes.
- Assisted more Wisconsin Counties to obtain funding for drug court programs which provide a mix of sanctions and treatment for non-violent criminal addicts.
- Proposed further funding for implementation and analysis of Wisconsin River TMDL study started several years ago.
- Last but not least was proud to watch the progress of the new Skyward facility in Stevens Point. From the time of the last budget to now we have seen an amazing increase in hiring for good family supporting jobs in Central Wisconsin



Rep. Krug, Gov. Walker and area legislators celebrating the groundbreaking of the new Skyward World HQ

We have several up and coming information technology companies and I look forward to keeping that momentum going in the next legislative session.

For an even longer list of success in this area at repkrug.com

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Rep. Krug and colleagues joined by Tom Heiser and Tom Sachs honoring Wisconsin Veterans' duty and sacrifice on the 50th anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War.

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Upcoming Office Hours

It is great getting around the district and gathering input and feedback from constituents. The first week of May we are holding several area listening sessions. Please make sure you can attend at least one of these meetings for important updates on this session and to hear more about ideas for next session..

Join us at the following:

Monday May 2nd Almond Village Hall,
122 Main Street, Almond, WI 5pm-7pm

Tuesday May 3rd Village of Coloma Town Hall,
155 North Front Street, Coloma, WI 4pm-6pm

Thursday May 5th Adams Community Center,
569 North Cedar Street, Adams, WI 5pm-7pm

Friday May 6th McMillan Memorial Library,
490 E Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 5pm-7pm

*****ECRWSS*****

Residential Customer

Citizen Input-Keep an eye out for issues that are important to you and come testify in front of a legislative committee. For help getting up to date, please consider utilizing the Legislative Notification Service. This service allows you to follow every bill on a given issue or multiple issues. To access the service visit Notify.legis.wisconsin.gov



Representative Krug Welcome's students to the capital from Parkside Elementary.

E-Updates

Periodically I send out an E-update to constituents in the district to keep them informed regarding what is happening in Madison. Oftentimes we feature a section in our E-update asking for your input on a piece of legislation that is circulating throughout the Capitol for co-sponsorship, because we want you to have a voice. If you would like to stay informed please send me an e-mail.

Blue Books

Blue books were distributed to our offices in October. I am currently delivering them to constituents that requested them. Please let me know if you are interested in having a copy of your own.

Capitol Tours

Our State Capitol building in Madison is the best in the nation. It has a rich history and a unique beauty that I encourage everyone to experience on a guided tour. Please let us know when you stop by. We would love to greet you and take a picture.

**Follow Scott on Twitter @skrug75
or on Facebook:
State Representative Scott Krug**