

Romaine Quinn

State Representative • Serving the 75th Assembly District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Reps. Brooks, Quinn, and Tranel Spearhead Rural Wisconsin Initiative

Seven Bills Included in Initial Plan; Website Launched to Gather Public Feedback

Madison, WI – This week, a group of Republican legislators hailing from rural areas across the state came together to announce the Rural Wisconsin Initiative, an initial package of seven pieces of legislation that they hope will jumpstart a conversation on opportunities in outstate Wisconsin. The group is led by Reps. Ed Brooks (Reedsburg), Romaine Quinn (Rice Lake), and Travis Tranel (Cuba City).

The plan includes bills that will boost funding for broadband expansion grants, increase available resources for youth apprenticeship grants and tuition reimbursement grants for apprenticeships, create rural opportunity zones, expand a student loan repayment program for rural teachers, encourage expanded STEM education programs, and bolster funding for the Wisconsin Rural Physician Residency Assistance Program (WRPRAP).

“It’s time for rural Wisconsinites to speak with one voice in Madison,” said Rep. Romaine Quinn, who contributed legislation to the plan. “The Rural Wisconsin Initiative will serve as an umbrella to galvanize rural legislators to bring our issues to the capitol and ensure that the issues that affect us every day are addressed. We have so much of the same talent and potential: it’s time that rural Wisconsin children had the same opportunities as kids in Milwaukee or Madison.”

Several legislators have joined Reps. Brooks, Quinn, and Tranel in supporting the plan, including Reps. Joan Ballweg (Markesan), Kathy Bernier (Chippewa Falls), Mary Czaja (Irma), James Edming (Glen Flora), Joel Kitchens (Sturgeon Bay), Scott Krug (Nekoosa), Bob Kulp (Stratford), Tom Larson (Colfax), Jeff Mursau (Crivitz), John Murtha (Baldwin), Lee Nerison (Westby), Todd Novak (Dodgeville), Warren Petryk (Eleva), Keith Ripp (Lodi), John Spiros (Marshfield), Rob Swearingen (Rhineland), Gary Tauchen (Bonduel), and Nancy VanderMeer (Tomah).

“The most important part of the Rural Wisconsin Initiative is public involvement,” continued Rep. Quinn. “We want to work with people to develop legislation to build our future in rural Wisconsin.”

To view the plan or offer suggestions, please visit www.RuralWisconsinInitiative.com

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