



JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Rodriguez’s Statement on Bucks’ Arena

MADISON – State Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R-Franklin) released the following statement on the Assembly’s approval of Senate Bill 209, relating to constructing a sports and entertainment arena:

“The proposal passed today with bipartisan support in the Assembly after necessary changes were made to help protect our taxpayers. When the original proposal was introduced, I was very skeptical of the state’s share of the total cost. Changes made to SB 209 by the Joint Finance Committee and in the Senate earlier this month limited taxpayers’ commitment.

“The state’s share of the project is capped at \$80 million, and that could be reduced to \$70 million, with revenue collected from the ticket surcharge that was added to the package. Spread over 20 years, the state will contribute \$3.5 to \$4 million per year to the project. Based on current revenue figures, the state collects \$6.5 million per year in income tax on the NBA players’ salaries.

“By passing this proposal, it also allows the state to avoid future liability for the Bradley Center, which could have totaled \$120 million in delayed maintenance costs and debt service. Other provisions make it clear that the state is not responsible for maintenance, operations or cost overruns for the construction of the new arena. In addition, if the Bucks decide to leave the state in the future, ‘clawback’ language in the deal requires the owners to payback the state’s investment.

“This is an opportunity for economic development in downtown Milwaukee, and when I considered all aspects of the proposal, the benefits outweighed the negatives.”

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