**Joint Committee on Finance
Testimony on the Legislature’s Responsible Stimulus Plan**

**April 7, 2021**

Co-Chairs and Members:

Thank you for hearing testimony on the Legislature’s “Responsible Stimulus Plan” for prioritizing the federal funds set to arrive in Wisconsin as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Our goal with these bills is to work with the Governor to reinvest one-time federal funds back into areas of greatest need. The plan before you today will *Invest in People, Improve Infrastructure, and Boost our Economy.*

Many of the provisions in the plan are shared priorities with the Governor and include funding above the level he proposed publicly. Working together we can accelerate our state's recovery, prioritize funds to those hit hardest by the pandemic, and build critical infrastructure for a stronger future.

I want to be very clear: These bills and this hearing are the Legislature’s sincere attempts to work with Governor Evers to develop a plan to use this one-time federal money to the benefit of the most amount of people in our state. Creating this framework together is incredibly important because without a defined plan on how the federal money will be spent, how can we ask the Finance Committee to craft a state budget?

We need a plan. Without a roadmap like we propose, the Legislature is flying blind. How could we ask state taxpayers to be on the hook for new spending without a plan for the federal funds? Our hope is to build the plan with the Governor.

The way to design a visionary 2021-2023 budget is take this unique opportunity to use federal money to accelerate our state's recovery and ensure the people of Wisconsin have new and improved infrastructure which will benefit our state long into the future.

Statewide Broadband, Local Roads, and Clean Water Infrastructure – these would be substantial, physical assets which will benefit Wisconsinites for decades to come.

What you won’t see in these 11 bills are spending items which create on-going costs that would lead to future budget deficits. We hope to create transformational improvement to our state, not create new budget holes once the federal money dries up.

I thank the committee for your time and consideration of our responsible plan which invests in people and paves the way for a smooth budget process that will benefit our state for years to come.