



# JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

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## Transportation Committees Approve Senator Petrowski Bills

**Madison, WI...** Two bills authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R-Marathon*) aimed at providing updates to farm implement legislation and allowing emergency operation of utility vehicles responding to service outages on posted roads passed both Senate and Assembly Transportation Committees today.

**SB 83/AB 113** authored by Senator Petrowski and Representative Keith Ripp (*R-Lodi*), provide needed adjustments to new regulations governing the operation of oversized and overweight agricultural equipment, or implements of husbandry (IoH), that were signed into law last session as Act 377.

*“Since the enactment of Act 377, we have continued to work closely with stakeholders in the agricultural industry, local governments, and the Department of Transportation to carefully monitor implementation,” said Senator Petrowski. “This bill is intended to be a clean-up package of noncontroversial but necessary changes that address unforeseen issues that came up during implementation and to clarify ambiguous provisions in the law.”*

“Sen. Jerry Petrowski and Rep. Keith Ripp have once again led the way in forging together an Implements of Husbandry bill that helps give farmers the ability to legally operate overweight and over length farm machinery on Wisconsin roadways and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is very appreciative of their efforts,” stated Farm Bureau President Jim Holte. “After 2013 WI Act 377 was signed into law, we all recognized that there would be some follow-up issues that needed to be addressed. Senate Bill 83 and Assembly Bill 113 accomplish that goal. Farm Bureau thanks the authors for their leadership and their commitment to finding a solution that works best for both farmers and local governments.”

**SB 80/AB 122** authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski and Representative Mary Czaja (*R-Irma*) seeks to ensure local road access for public utility vehicles during emergencies. Specifically, these bills exempt public utility vehicles [telecom and coop associations] and private contractors working under their direction, from the [special, seasonal, and class B] road weight restrictions imposed by local authorities for the purpose of responding to service interruptions. This exemption does not apply to regular maintenance operations.

*“No one should have to go without power or heat simply because a utility vehicle could not access a road necessary to fix a service interruption. Local authorities have good reasons for imposing weight restrictions on the roads they oversee, but we must balance these restrictions with preserving public safety and the welfare of our citizens,” said Senator Petrowski. “This bill will ensure that public utilities and others have the ability to make timely repairs in the event of an emergency.”*

Both bills are now headed for a full vote by the respective houses of the Legislature.

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