



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2008

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PRESS RELEASE

**REP. HEBL CALLS FOR BILL CREATING A 'SNOWY DAY FUND'
FOR MUNICIPALITIES HARDEST HIT BY SEVERE WEATHER**

MADISON - State Representative Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) announced Friday he is introducing a bill calling for the creation of a "Snowy Day Fund" for the municipalities hardest hit by the winter weather.

"Winter weather has put many municipal budgets on thin ice this year, and what the Snowy Day Fund does is provide some relief for the areas that have been hardest hit," Hebl said of the bill, which he will circulate for co-sponsors next week.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, December was the second-snowiest December recorded in south-central Wisconsin and the current rate of snowfall is well above average. But in other years different parts of the state have been disproportionately affected. The size and frequency of snowfalls translate into significantly higher costs for snow removal for local governments.

Under this legislation, municipalities could apply for up to \$50,000 for each winter maintenance season. The Department of Transportation (DOT), which would be responsible for administering the fund under the legislation, would have to receive applications from municipalities by May 1 in order to be considered.

Hebl said the bill uses \$500,000 in existing fund balance from the Transportation Fund to establish the Snowy Day Fund for the 2007-08 fiscal year. In future years, the Legislature will determine the amount of money that is available.

The inclusion of a winter severity index in the legislation ensures the Snowy Day Fund assists only the communities that have been hardest hit receive the resources they need.

"Municipalities are on front lines of providing services to the community, and ensuring our roads are clear is a matter of community safety," Hebl said.

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