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Rep. Hurd Reacts to the State of the State Address

MADISON – On Wednesday evening, Governor Tony Evers delivered his 2025 State of the State Address, unveiling his agenda for the 2025-2026 legislative session and previewing his upcoming state budget proposal. Representative Karen Hurd (R-Withee) issued the following statement in response to the governor's address.

"While I did hear some areas where I believe the Legislature can work across the aisle with Governor Evers, such as investing in improving our roads, much of what I heard in the governor's speech differs greatly from the priorities of the people of the 69th Assembly District whom I was elected to represent.

"During his speech, Governor Evers touted providing tax relief during his first six years in office. What he failed to mention is that in the last budget alone he reduced \$3.5 billion in tax relief approved by Legislative Republicans to only \$175 million through use of his veto pen. Instead of helping Wisconsinites who are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living the governor chose to keep this money in Madison.

"When discussing the economy, Governor Evers also said that our workforce has never been stronger. However, the conversations I've had with employers around the 69th District tell me a different story. One of the top concerns I hear from employers both large and small, is that they cannot find enough workers to meet their needs. When employers cannot meet their workforce needs, they are forced to either reduce their hours or the services they offer to their customers. We must find a way to encourage more people to move to Wisconsin and become a part of our workforce. Continuing to reduce our state's tax burden is a good place to start.

"The governor also announced several proposals that would grow the size of state government and expand bureaucracy. Wisconsin's sizable surplus is due to responsible budgeting by Legislative Republicans. It is important to remember that much of this surplus is one-time money that cannot be relied upon to fund ongoing programs in future years. As a member of the Joint Finance Committee, I look forward to developing a budget proposal that funds our state's priorities, spends tax dollars wisely, and provides tax relief for Wisconsin families."

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The <u>new 69th District</u> includes all of Clark County and portions of Chippewa, Marathon and Taylor Counties.