

For Immediate Release
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Representative Hurd Votes to Improve Workforce Housing

Madison – Representative Karen Hurd (R-Fall Creek) authored AB 265 and voted in favor of the package of bills aimed at bolstering workforce housing development across the state.

Wisconsin is in the middle of a severe housing shortage. Statewide housing inventory levels are at a historic low, and median home prices continue to rise. Since 2011, Wisconsin has produced 10,000 fewer single-family homes every year than we did during the previous decade.

Construction costs for a single-family home have increased by more than 35% since 2020. In addition, government regulations continue to add excessive costs and delays to the housing development process.

“The purpose of this package is to increase the supply of workforce housing. The lack of reasonable and attractive housing options, prevent employers from recruiting new employees to fill job openings especially in rural communities. During this time of workforce housing shortage, these bills will help to increase the supply of workforce housing, which is necessary to attract and retain workers in Wisconsin.”

“Concerning AB 265, Upper-floor housing has been a part of Wisconsin downtowns since the days our communities were built. Before automobiles, business owners had their shops on the first floor and lived upstairs. After World War II, the automobile increased people’s mobility, and much of the population moved to the suburbs and commuted to and from their businesses each day. Many of these upper floor living spaces fell into disuse. For several decades, these spaces have deteriorated, sitting empty and unmaintained or simply used for storage. The good news is that most of these buildings were built so soundly that they’ve endured.”

The package includes legislation to create next-generation workforce housing, rehabilitate main street housing, upgrade aging housing, and convert vacant commercial developments to residential.

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The 68th Assembly District includes portions of Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Clark Counties including the communities of Altoona, Fall Creek, Augusta, Fairchild, Greenwood, Owen, Withee, Thorp, Cadott, Boyd, Stanley, the Town of Lafayette, and parts of Eau Claire.