

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release: January 23, 2019 Contact: Rep. Nancy VanderMeer (608) 266-8366

## VanderMeer Statement on State of the State Address

**Madison** – Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) issued the following statement after Governor Tony Evers's State of the State Address:

"I heard a number of things from the Governor tonight that I think should be shared priorities in our state, ranging from investing in education and mental health resources for K-12 students, to making healthcare more affordable, to developing a long-term solution for transportation funding. However, as with many things, how the Governor chooses to go about making these priorities a reality will determine their success.

There were a couple of things I didn't hear last night that I think need to be a priority. Wisconsin's economy is booming. Our unemployment rate has remained at a record low of 3% for 11 consecutive months and our employers, including those in the tourism industry which is very important to my district, are still struggling to find employees. There are more jobs than people to fill them across the state and we need to do everything we can to continue to help job providers from all sectors recruit and retain the employees they need.

Also, I didn't hear anything mentioned about our agricultural industry or the farmers throughout our state that are really struggling right now as a result of low commodity prices, consolidation and global trade wars. Although many of the issues our farmers face rest at the federal level, we need to do everything we can at the state level to both remedy problems and continue to foster growth for this top industry in our state. I think Governor Evers made an excellent choice appointing Secretary Brad Pfaff and I look forward to productively working with him to help address the variety of issues our farmers are facing right now."

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The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.