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# JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Rep. James Edming

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(608) 266-7506

## Rep. Edming Backs Use of Stimulus Funding to Meet Critical Needs

**MADISON** – Today, the State Assembly passed a legislative package co-authored by Representative James Edming (R-Glen Flora) that allocates one-time federal stimulus funding to meet some critical needs of Northern Wisconsin. The 11 bill package provides funds for broadband expansion, supports long-term care facilities, helps rural economic development, and provides assistance to farmers, small businesses, and the tourism industry.

“These bills advance a number of critical priorities for the people I represent,” said Rep. Edming. “I am particularly excited about the funding for rural economic development and the bold funding needed to expand broadband in rural Wisconsin. This package of bills I co-authored also provides assistance for tourism and small businesses that will make a big difference for my constituents and help our area recover from the effects of the pandemic.”

This package uses the \$3.2 billion coming to Wisconsin as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and includes the following:

- **Broadband Expansion:** \$500 million in broadband expansion grants
- **Small Business Assistance:** \$200 million for small business grants
- **Tourism Assistance:** \$50 million for tourism grants and \$25 million for advertising grants for amusement parks
- **Rural Economic Development & Farmer Assistance:** \$50 million for rural economic development grants and \$50 million for farmer support funds
- **Long-term Care Assistance:** \$150 million for grants for nursing homes and assisted living facilities and worker bonuses
- **Aid to Households:** \$1 billion to provide a 10 percent payment to all property taxpayers
- **Strengthen Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund:** Requires the use of recovery funds to keep UI taxes at the lowest tax schedule
- **Local Road Funding:** \$308 million to give \$2 million per county and \$2,000 per road mile to cities, villages, and towns for road improvements
- **EMS and Mental Health:** \$68.2 million for EMS technology upgrades and a psychiatric hospital in Eau Claire
- **Clean Water Investments:** \$61 million for water infrastructure projects
- **Debt Repayment:** \$250 million to pay down state debt and \$250 million to pay off transportation debt

After today’s votes, this package of legislation advances to the State Senate for further consideration.

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*The 87th Assembly District includes portions of Clark, Marathon, Rusk, Sawyer, and Taylor Counties.*