

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Statement on State Building Commission and Board of Regents Votes**

Madison—Yesterday, both the State Building Commission and the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents met to vote on proposals including Universities of Wisconsin building projects. Representative Billings, a member of the State Building Commission and the Chair of the Commission’s Higher Education Subcommittee, released the following statement:

“Yesterday, my colleagues on the State Building Commission and I voted to approve 18 important building projects. We discussed how funding these efforts will provide for necessary repairs and upgrades to state buildings, improvements at agency offices, and building and renovation of numerous facilities at universities across Wisconsin. One of the proposals we approved, the UW-Eau Claire Science and Health Sciences Building, will replace the deteriorating Phillips Science Hall and invest in students and our workforce for years to come. These projects are sorely needed and I am glad that we are making these important investments in the future of our state.”

“Our State Building Commission meeting was straightforward, efficient, and demonstrated how our state’s system for financing projects is supposed to work. Unfortunately, the Board of Regents resolution passed a few hours later demonstrated just the opposite. In a craven and unprecedented power grab, Speaker Vos held up already approved pay raises for months and delayed important building projects in order to bargain away DEI programs and advance his own political agenda.”

“Building projects for our universities, agencies, and state buildings are too important to be halted on the whims of just one out of 132 state legislators in Wisconsin. The State Building Commission utilizes a careful, deliberative, and open process because we are entrusted with the weighty responsibility of expending millions of taxpayer dollars and we take that responsibility seriously. The rushed deal approved by the Board of Regents was not transparent and leveraged the approval of building projects that should have been considered and voted on through the standard funding process and without the undue influence of an individual legislator with a partisan agenda.”

“Yesterday’s State Building Commission [subcommittee meetings](#) and [voting meeting](#) can be found on Wisconsin Eye and are accessible to the public. The same cannot be said for any of the meetings held during Vos’s backroom pressure campaign to intimidate the Universities of Wisconsin into a deal that advances the Speaker’s anti-DEI priorities. This failure of transparency and lack of allowance of time for public input is appalling and our Universities of Wisconsin deserve better.”