

*The*  
**FELZKOWSKI FLYER**



**WISCONSIN'S 12TH SENATE DISTRICT**

## **BUSY WEEK IN THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE**

This week the budget-writing Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) held six hearings in two days.

During every biennial budget season, it is customary for JFC to invite some of the Governor's agencies in for a hearing to discuss their budget requests, and ultimately the Governor's budget recommendations. For this budget cycle, JFC invited the following four agencies:

- Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
- Department of Workforce Development (DWD)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Public Service Commission

Many of my points and questions revolved around broadband expansion, stewardship, rural education, unemployment insurance, and the wolf hunt.

JFC also held a 13.10 hearing - to approve prior stewardship requests that were previously objected to. JFC approved one request in it's entirety after clarifying some questions and approved one of them at a lower cost than requested.

Finally, JFC took up eleven bills asking Governor Evers to use the \$3.2 billion from the federal government to prioritize projects around the state - you can read more on page four.

APRIL 7, 2021

**1 - BUSY WEEK IN THE  
JOINT FINANCE  
COMMITTEE**

**2 - OCI VIDEO WITH  
COMMISSIONER AFABLE**

**3 - TREE TAPPING**

**4 - DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**5 - AMERICAN RESCUE  
PLAN ACT: HOW WE  
SHOULD SPEND THE  
FEDERAL FUNDING**

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## OCI VIDEO WITH COMMISSIONER AFABLE

A couple weeks ago, I had the privilege of joining the Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner, Mark Afable, to discuss the opportunity, flexibility and variety that an insurance career can offer. Click the video below to watch!



## DISTRICT COMMUNITY CALENDAR

This week on Facebook, I put out a notice letting the district know that I'm more than happy to promote public community events in this section of my newsletter.

If you would like to see your event here, please send them to [Sen.Felzkowski@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Sen.Felzkowski@legis.wi.gov).

- April 7th:** Whitetails Unlimited Merrill Chamber Banquet - Merrill
- April 10th:** Phelps Maple Sugar Fest - Phelps
- April 11th:** Antigo Lions Club Annual Spaghetti Dinner - Antigo
- April 16th:** WI Sports & Military Firearm Collector Gun & Sport Show - Antigo
- May 5th:** 16th Annual Sustainable Forestry Conference - Florence

## TREE TAPPING IN ANTIGO

A couple weeks ago, I joined the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association's First Tree Tapping at Marvin's Sugar Bush in Antigo.

The association is looking for solutions to hauling issues in Wisconsin. Currently, sap isn't considered an agriculture product - causing many issues for producers hauling sap from the woods to the Sugar Bush.



**COMMUNITY EVENTS  
IN MY WEEKLY  
NEWSLETTER, SEND  
THEM TO:**

**SEN.FELZKOWSKI@LEGIS.WI.GOV**

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT: HOW WE SHOULD SPEND THE FEDERAL FUNDING

In the latest round of COVID relief from the federal government, also known as the American Rescue Plan Act, Wisconsin was notified that Governor Evers would have \$3.2 billion to spend at his own discretion. JFC passed the following bills out of committee to give Governor Evers some options of where we could spend this one-time funding - ultimately, he can veto every single one of them, if he so chooses to do so.

The package of bills includes the following:

- 1. Aid to Households - \$1 billion**
  - a. 10% of property taxes returned to all property owners
  - b. Commercial properties included
- 2. Economic Assistance for Small Businesses - \$275 million**
  - a. Small business assistance - provide additional grants to help recover
    - i. Return to JFC with a plan to distribute - \$200 million
- 3. Tourism Business Assistance - grants similar to the Travel Grant program**
  - a. \$50 million for tourism
  - b. \$25 million for amusement parks
- 4. Economic Assistance for Rural Wisconsin - \$100 million**
  - a. Rural Economic Development Assistance - \$50 million
  - b. Farmer Assistance - distribution like the CARES Act grants - \$50 million
- 5. Nursing Home Assistance - \$150 million**
  - a. Grant program for staff pay bonuses, capital improvements, and WISHN upgrades
- 6. Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund - \$ indeterminate**
  - a. Direct the agency to use Federal funds to keep UI Trust Fund whole so as to avoid burdening employers who are recovering
- 7. Local Roads - \$308.5 million**
  - a. \$1 million to every county
  - b. \$1,000 per road mile to every city, village, and town
- 8. Broadband - \$500 million**
  - a. \$125 million per year in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024
- 9. Water Infrastructure - \$61 million**
  - a. Lead Service Line Replacement - \$40 million
  - b. Well Compensation Grants - \$2 million
  - c. Urban Nonpoint Source Program - \$12 million
  - d. Rural Nonpoint Source Program - \$6.5 million
  - e. Grants for well testing and public education - \$500 thousand
- 10. Emergency Medical Services and Mental Health - \$68.2 million**
  - a. WisCOM - \$34 million
  - b. ESInet - \$18.5 million
  - c. NG911 GIS - \$1.7 million
  - d. Psychiatric Hospital in Eau Claire County - \$1.5 million
- 11. Debt Repayment - \$500 million**
  - a. General Obligation Debt Repayment
  - b. Transportation Debt Repayment
  - c. Capital Budget Items