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The Governor Signed the Budget, But Not Without Vetoes

When Governor Evers released his version of the budget, which raised taxes by over \$1 billion, I told you we need to continue to budget responsibly and keep as much money as possible in the hands of Wisconsinites.

I am confident the Joint Committee on Finance did just that by including an over \$2 billion tax cut, all while achieving priorities we heard from you throughout our public hearings and information gathering sessions.

I recently called on the governor to sign the budget the legislature passed, which includes things like two-thirds funding for our K-12 schools, our historic tax cut and broadband expansion, and he did, but not without vetoes.

Governor Evers has one of the strongest veto pens in the nation allowing him to strike sentences, letters and characters in appropriation bills. While I appreciate the governor realizing the investments the legislature made are good for all of Wisconsin, there are a few vetoes which concern me, including:

- *Agricultural Exports Program* – The governor vetoed a portion of this program's funding which would have gone toward promoting Wisconsin's dairy product exports.
- *High Cost Transportation Aids* – The governor vetoed a provision that modified the criteria for this program to better target the funding for truly rural school districts.
- *Youth Summer Jobs Program* – The governor vetoed the expansion of the eligibility for this program to include programs outside of the Milwaukee area.

These are all investments that would have continued to move rural Wisconsin forward, and I am committed to continuing to work on these priorities. However, in the end, I am proud of the work my colleagues and I did in crafting the budget. We were still able to achieve some great things that will improve the lives and safety of our friends, family and neighbors and create efficiencies within state and local governments.

I appreciate everyone who talked to my office about their priorities and look forward to continuing to serve you as your state senator.

To reach Sen. Ballweg with questions or comments please call (608) 266-0751 or email Sen.Ballweg@legis.wi.gov. Visit her website, legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/14/ballweg, for previous Ballweg Budget Bulletins and to subscribe to her weekly e-update.