



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sen. Mark Spreitzer and Legislative Colleagues Introduce Bills to Promote Local Journalism in Wisconsin

MADISON – Today, Sen. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) introduced a package of three bills with Rep. Jimmy Anderson (D-Fitchburg) and Rep. Jodi Emerson (D-Eau Claire) aimed at improving and enhancing local journalism in Wisconsin. LRB 4790 would create a state tax credit for local newspaper subscriptions, LRB 4115 would create a Civic Information Consortium Board that would provide grants to support local journalism and media projects across the state, and LRB 4901 would create a journalism fellowship program within the UW System for beginning journalists.

Following the introduction of the bill package, Sen. Spreitzer released the following statement:

“Over the past twenty years, local news organizations have suffered deep cuts. A quarter of American newspapers have shuttered and the number of newsroom staff has declined, while one in every five Americans are now stranded in local news deserts.

“As a State Senator, I know first-hand how important local journalism is to the foundation of our democracy – keeping Wisconsinites informed about their government and local community, providing opportunities for discussion on important civic issues, and helping to cultivate an informed and engaged electorate. Every Wisconsinite deserves access to high-quality and affordable local journalism. This package is an important tool to support local news while encouraging civic participation.

“I was proud to work with Reps. Jimmy Anderson and Jodi Emerson to introduce this legislative package to support the local newspapers that are the lifeblood of our communities, and I hope that my legislative colleagues will join us in supporting these important bills.”

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15th SENATE DISTRICT