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# HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Senator Marklein Statement on No Vote on Transportation Bonding  
In Joint Finance Committee**

**MADISON**— State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) released the following statement today regarding his “no” vote on the Department of Transportation’s request to approve \$350,000,000 in general obligation bonding for transportation projects:

“Today, as a member of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC), I voted ‘no’ on the DOT’s request to borrow \$350 million to fund transportation projects because I do not believe we should be going further into debt when we haven’t created any new sources of revenue to make the payments on this new debt.

“The \$350 million in bonds approved today carries debt service of roughly \$25 million per year for a period of 20 years; that means we have added an estimated \$500 million in debt payments to our state’s obligations!

“Throughout the budgeting process, I encouraged my colleagues to consider alternatives to borrowing. We should not be unnecessarily burdening future generations with huge debts, especially with obligations to the general fund, which is where we fund education, the university system, human services and other major programs.

“As an accountant, I would never recommend this approach to one of my clients and I do not recommend it to the taxpayers of Wisconsin; especially because this debt doesn’t fix our problems in the 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District. None of the new borrowing will increase local transportation aids that are used to fix our local roads.

“So, while we continue to fund mega projects throughout our state with borrowed money, we also continue to ignore our real problems and the roads in southwestern Wisconsin that are in desperate need of repair.

“I will continue to fight for reforming our transportation funding structure and am disappointed in the debt we have added to our state’s balance sheet today.”

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