



DUEY STROEBEL

STATE SENATOR • 20TH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

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Statement on Cedar Gorge-Clay Bluffs Property in Ozaukee County

Madison, WI – On Thursday, it was announced that the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust (OWLT) would be awarded \$2.3 million in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) by the Evers administration for the acquisition of the Cedar Gorge-Clay Bluffs property in Ozaukee County. Senator Duey Stroebel (R – Cedarburg) issued the following statement in response to the announcement:

“While much attention has been given to last week’s announcement and the \$2.3 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds that will be awarded to the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust for the purchase of the Cedar Gorge-Clay Bluffs property, I want to commend the Land Trust for its efforts in securing over \$4.6 million towards the \$5.2 million purchase price prior to the announcement.”

“There has been no shortage of accusations and controversy over the past year stemming from the Joint Finance Committee’s objection to the Land Trust’s request for a \$2.3 million grant through the state’s Stewardship Program. While I worked with my colleagues on the Joint Finance Committee to secure support for a compromise that would have provided a grant amount of \$1.6 million to the Land Trust, negotiations ultimately fell through earlier this year.”

“I do question Gov. Evers’ decision to provide \$2.3 million in COVID-19 relief funds for the property acquisition when, as of last week, the Land Trust’s website indicated that only about \$550,000 was needed to reach its goal of \$5.2 million in total funding. It would be unfortunate if the Evers administration allocated \$1.75 million unnecessarily for the purchase of the property, taking away from other causes that are important to the health and welfare of the citizens of our state.”

Sen. Duey Stroebel represents the 20th Senate District which includes portions of Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan and Calumet counties.

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