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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2019

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MILLER PARK TAX TO FINALLY END

MADISON – After nearly 24 years and \$600 million collected, the State Senate has officially set an end date for the 5-county Miller Park tax. Today, the State Senate passed Assembly Bill 73, which officially prohibits the collection of the Miller Park tax effective August 31, 2020.

“Today is a great day for taxpayers in southeastern Wisconsin,” said bill author Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine). “This has been a long time coming, and the taxpayers have paid more than their share to keep the Brewers and baseball in Wisconsin. Finally, they will have to pay no more.”

Since January 1, 1996, a 0.1% tax has been collected on all sales in Racine, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha counties to pay for the construction and maintenance of Miller Park. In the 24 years it has been collected, taxpayers have paid nearly \$600 million for Miller Park. In the last couple months local governments and interest groups have been quietly pushing to extend, or repurpose the tax for another purpose.

“We’ve seen how difficult it is to kill this tax. But, taxpayers have held up their end of the bargain. The Miller Park debt will be paid for, and its obligations met,” said Wanggaard. “There is a never-ending desire for taxpayer dollars for pet projects. We have to end this tax now, so that it is not taken for another purpose. It is past time to end this tax, once and for all. Today, the Legislature did just that.”

The bill now goes to Governor Evers for his signature. The stadium district board has stated publicly its intention to certify the end of the tax in March, 2020. Any excess revenue collected before the end of the tax will be redistributed to the five counties on a per-capita basis.

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