

For Immediate Release Contact: Sen. Cory Tomczyk November 14, 2023 (608) 266-2502

## Sen. Tomczyk Votes YES to Keep Baseball in Wisconsin

**Madison, WI** - Sen. Cory Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) issued the following statement regarding the Brewers Stadium funding bills:

"As has been reported in the media, I was not always in favor of AB 438 and AB 439. I take the role we play here in the State Senate protecting the taxpayers very seriously and for many months I believed that voting 'No' was the right move. In the past few weeks, I did my homework and educated myself further. I had several meetings with stakeholders in Madison, traveled to Milwaukee to tour American Family Field, and spoke with constituents. After getting an in-depth tour of the stadium, it became obvious that the aging building is in need of repairs. Following over 20 years of use, it is clear that American Family Field has been well cared for, but is in need of major updates in order to continue safely using it.

"Today, on the Senate floor, I voted in favor of AB 438 and AB 439. The two bills that we passed today are essential to keep the Brewers in Wisconsin. Using a portion of the income tax generated from Brewers' players and visiting team player salaries, the state can meet its obligation to maintain American Family Field and keep the Brewers in Milwaukee where they belong through 2050. Without passing this legislation, we risk the Brewers relocating to another city – leaving Wisconsin without a professional baseball team. The loss of tax revenue would reach over \$650 million.

"The state owns over 65% of American Family Field. If the Brewers left town, the state would be left with an empty stadium in need of major maintenance or complete demolition. Taxpayers would be stuck with the bill to tear down a stadium to the tune of \$45 - \$70 million. This fiscal hole would be unacceptable and unnecessary.

"Remember just ten months ago, Governor Evers proposed handing over \$290 million in cash to accomplish the same goal – which I completely opposed. We struck a much better deal today. Because of our actions, the Brewers remain an institution in Wisconsin and taxpayers are protected."

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