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Members of the Wisconsin Legislature,

I fully support Gov. Walker's budget provision that calls for the elimination of energy efficiency exemptions for school districts. I am pleased to read reports that both the Senate and Assembly budget plans include language to end these exemptions.

As you may know, Gov. Walker's proposal is the exact language of 2015 SB 337/AB 449, which was introduced last session by Sen. Lasee and Rep. Neylon. Those bills did not pass before the end of session, which is why I am hopeful the provision stays in the final budget.

I truly thank Sen. Lasee and Rep. Neylon for their leadership on this important effort to correct state law that was slipped into Gov. Doyle's last state budget in 2009.

The merits of whether or not school districts should be doing these energy efficiency upgrades is not the issue, rather the fact that these are being done without local voter approval. It is simple to me, if a school district wants to do energy efficiency upgrades they should either use normal funding under levy limits or get approval via referendum.

I wanted to share a specific example as it relates to my duty as a commissioner on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL). The BCPL gives out loans to municipalities and school districts, these energy efficiency loans are one example of loans given to school districts.

Recently, the St. Francis School District (SFSD) applied for a \$4 million loan for energy efficiency upgrades using the levy exemption. When I spoke to SFSD I was told their total levy was \$7 million, which means the loan was for over half of their entire levy limit. Due to declining enrollment SFSD next year could lower their levy limit 13.5% or a reduction in the mill rate of \$1.74. That means a homeowner could save \$261 next year on a home valued at \$150,000. I voted against this loan.

Unfortunately, I was outvoted 2-1 and the loan was approved for up to \$4 million. That means that the above mentioned homeowner will NOT see their taxes lowered by \$261—I call that a tax increase. If the Lasse/Neylon language is included in the state budget this loan would no longer be allowed without local voter approval during a referendum.

I ask that the elimination of the energy efficiency exemption stay in the upcoming budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Adamczyk", written over a horizontal line.

Matt Adamczyk