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Rep. Rohrkaste Votes for Middle Class Tax Relief

MADISON – The Wisconsin State Assembly passed a bill to cut taxes for middle-class families by almost \$500 million on a 61-33 vote. Under the bill, individuals making less than \$100,000 a year and families making under \$150,000 a year would see their state taxes decrease. This tax cut was paid for by a large budget surplus made possible by sound fiscal management. It fulfills a campaign pledge made by Governor Evers without having to raise taxes on farmers and manufacturers. Following the vote, Representative Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah) issued the following statement:

"Our economy is booming and our revenues are up. Even after returning this money to our middle-class taxpayers, we will have nearly \$2 billion in new money to consider spending in our upcoming two-year budget. That's one of the strongest opening positions in a generation, and it's been made possible by smart investments. Unlike the hurried plan the Governor released, what I voted for today is fully funded and does not raise taxes on anyone to reduce taxes for others.

"We need to focus on filling the open jobs we have in the state. A low tax burden will bring more middle-class workers to Wisconsin. More people using more of their money in the way they choose is a win-win. New income taxes are the largest contributions to our general fund, new commuters driving to work will be the largest contributors to our transportation fund, and new middle-class families buying homes and paying property taxes will be the largest contributors to education funding. Now is the time to return the surplus into the hands of those who paid for it, and to do so without penalizing our farmers or manufactures or committing us to spend money we do not have."

The nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau projects the median income family, filing jointly, would see a \$310 reduction in net taxes. Assembly Bill 4 is one of several initiatives for which Assembly Republicans offered ways to work collaboratively with the new governor.

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