



**WISCONSIN TOWNS
ASSOCIATION**

Empowering Town Officials

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For Immediate Release
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**The Wisconsin Towns Association Applauds Governor Evers’
Proposed Broadband Investment-Drinking Water Initiatives**

Yesterday, Governor Evers proposed a budget for the next two fiscal years. It initiates a dialogue on a number of long standing and new priorities for town government, citizens, and businesses.

“The lack of high speed broadband is preventing significant portions of Wisconsin from effectively participating in today’s economy, health care, and education system,” said Mike Koles, Wisconsin Towns Association Executive Director. “Wisconsin faces numerous decisions centered on whether or not we will empower town citizens and businesses to participate in the 21st century or remain stuck in the 20th. We are excited to see the proposed historic investment of \$78.6 million in the Broadband Expansion Grant Program.”

The budget proposal also begins to address town concerns related to transportation, shared revenue, levy limits, dark stores and Walgreen’s tax loopholes, and drinking water quality. “A vast majority of town citizens obtain their drinking water from private wells”, stated Lee Engelbrecht, WTA President and Town of Two Creeks Chair. “Recent research finding groundwater pollution has revealed the need for a concerted effort to determine what is happening, why it is happening, and what we must do to fix it. We look forward to having a discussion about proposed investments in research and conservation.”

The Wisconsin Towns Association appreciates the Governor’s sparking of a discussion about how town citizens, infrastructure, services, and economies are part of a broader system of connected dots. We look forward to working with his administration and the legislature to empower all of Wisconsin to be able to choose to participate in the 21st century.

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