

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Rep. Loren Oldenburg

November 7, 2019 (608) 266-3534

## Representative Oldenburg's Farmer Tuition Assistance & Ontario TIF Exception Bills Pass Assembly

MADISON – Representative Loren Oldenburg (R-Viroqua) had two bills up for a vote today in the Wisconsin State Assembly. The first bill was <u>Assembly Bill 294</u> that creates an exception for Tax Incremental Financing Districts (TIF) in the Village of Ontario. The second bill is Assembly Bill 524 which was a product of the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention. <u>Assembly Bill 524</u> will fund farmer tuition assistance grants that will be administered by the Wisconsin Technical College System as scholarships to current and prospective farmers.

"I am excited that two of my bills passed the Assembly on the same day," Oldenburg stated. "These bills will have a positive benefit and direct impact on the farmers and a rural communities in the 96<sup>th</sup>. I have been working with the Village of Ontario for months to find a solution so that they can create a second TIF district and grow the Village away from the path of previous flooding."

"Serving as a member of the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention was a great opportunity, and I am honored to author a bipartisan bill that seeks to help farmers further their education in farm and production management," said Oldenburg. "This bill can help prevent farmers from entering a financial situation that could lead to undue stress."

The next step for both the Ontario and Farmer Tuition Assistance bills is to have a public hearing in the Wisconsin State Senate. Senator Testin has authored a companion bill to Assembly Bill 294 which is <u>Senate Bill 260</u>, and Senator Olsen has authored a companion bill to Assembly Bill 524 which is <u>Senate Bill 505</u>.

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The 96th Assembly District includes all of Crawford county, most of Vernon county, and a portion of Monroe county. The largest cities within the district are Prairie du Chien and Viroqua.