

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Date: February 14, 2020 Contact: Melissa Sargent, (608)-220-2273 melissaforwisconsin@gmail.com

## Melissa Sargent Announces Endorsement from David Clarenbach

MADISON– Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement announcing an endorsement for her candidacy for Wisconsin's 16th Senate District:

"Today, it is my distinguished honor to announce an endorsement for my campaign for State Senate from former Wisconsin Assemblyman and LGBTQ+ leader and activist David Clarenbach. David's time in the Assembly and his continued commitment to our environment and LGBTQ+ community has been something that I've always greatly respected and looked up to," said Sargent.

David Clarenbach is a Wisconsin Democratic politician who represented that 78th Assembly District for nine years from 1975 to 1993 and served as Speaker pro tempore for ten years. While in the Assembly, Clarenbach greatly improved the lake quality and expanded the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Additionally, Clarenbach authored an HIV confidentiality law and an AIDS bill of rights. In his continued activism, Clarenbach led the Madison AIDS Support Network and was the executive director of the Gat and Lesbian Victory Fund from 1996 to 1997. He now works as a political consultant in Madison.

"From the environment to social justice, Melissa has continued to lead our communities with her work ethic and integrity. Melissa has been a champion for sustainable environmental solutions in addition to fighting diligently for just representation in the LGBTQ+ community. She works wholeheartedly for the betterment of everyone in our state, and during her time in the Assembly, Melissa has served with the utmost determination, bravery, and persistence. There is no question that Melissa will make an exceptional State Senator," said Clarenbach.

"It's a great honor to be receiving this endorsement from David Clarenbach. He has been a great leader and advocate in our state, and I am most appreciative to be receiving his support," said Sargent.

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Born and raised in Dane County, Melissa served on the Dane County Board prior to being elected to represent the 48th Assembly District. Before her start in politics, Melissa owned a small business and worked in the private sector. Concern for the greater community and a vision for a better Wisconsin brought her to public service and community activism. She is a proud mother of 4 boys, and lives on Madison's northside.