



John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Representative John Nygren

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(608) 266-2343

Rep. Nygren Works to Create Rural Workforce Housing Program

Madison--State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance released the following statement:

“One of the challenges to economic development in rural parts of the state is the lack of quality, affordable housing,” Rep. Nygren said. “This is especially true in my district where we will need 1,000 more workers to fulfill billions in federal Navy shipbuilding contracts. The plan approved today will help deliver more housing capacity to rural communities throughout Wisconsin.”

The Joint Committee on Finance approved the modified 2019-20 Dividends for Wisconsin Plan today. The plan authorizes the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) to spend \$16.7 million in surplus revenues on various housing and economic development initiatives. Included in the plan was a set aside of \$10 million for a Rural Workforce Housing Initiative championed by Representative Nygren.

The Rural Workforce Housing Initiative is a pilot initiative aimed at creating new and rehabilitating existing housing in rural areas of the state. It can be used for single and multifamily housing. It is also intended to maximize matching funds from state, federal, and private partners to make the \$10 million go farther with shovel ready projects. The program is modeled after AB544, which passed the Assembly in February.

“Modern and affordable rural housing availability was an issue before the COVID-19 pandemic and it will be after,” said Rep. Nygren. “I am pleased to have worked with WHEDA and thank them for their efforts to make this a reality. I look forward to seeing its results throughout the state.”

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