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Time for Evers to "Get to Work" on Declining State Revenues

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

"The new state revenue information underscores how Governor Evers needs to do more to reduce state spending," said Rep. Nygren. "Gov. Evers' 5% state operations cut was actually 2.5% and just over 1% if UW System, which absorbed a majority of the cut, is not included. He also exempted 25 agencies from any cuts including the Lt. Governor Barnes' office."

The nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau released May tax collection information today. The memo shows collections continue to be lower than estimated. Through May, fiscal year-to-date collections are \$380 million lower than last year. Previously, tax collections for this fiscal year were estimated to be \$303 million higher than last year. The memo also points out that Governor Evers delayed debt payments, increasing future interest costs to taxpayers.

"The new information also underscores the hypocrisy of Governor Evers and Democrats as Governor Evers is delaying debt payments after being critical of that in the past," said Rep. Nygren. "Democrats called it a 'gimmick' and a 'fiscal mistake' when it occurred under the previous administration. Governor Evers called it 'racking up debt on our state's credit card.""

"The Governor cut the Farm to School program by nearly half and the farmland preservation by over 70%, but gave Lt. Governor Barnes a pass. He is also adding costs to taxpayers by delaying debt payments, something he criticized Gov. Walker for doing. The Governor needs to get to work instead of protecting government at the expense of taxpayers," Rep. Nygren said. "His inaction and misplaced priorities will only cause greater hardship later. It seems Governor Evers believes Lt. Governor Barnes needs more resources for his <u>climate change task force</u> that continues to meet as tens of thousands wait for their first unemployment check."

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