FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Representative John Nygren July 6, 2020 (608) 266-2343

## **Rural Workforce Housing Initiative to Accept Applications July 22**

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

"I would like to thank WHEDA for working diligently to launch the rural workforce housing initiative," said Rep. Nygren. "Modern and affordable rural housing options are a need all throughout Wisconsin. I enjoyed working with WHEDA on this initiative and look forward to seeing its results throughout Wisconsin."

WHEDA is seeking comments on the initiative due by July 17<sup>th</sup> and will host a webinar on July 13<sup>th</sup>. The program will officially launch on July 22<sup>nd</sup> with awards expected to be announced in October of 2020. See more information linked here.

The Joint Committee on Finance approved a modified 2019-20 Dividends for Wisconsin Plan. The plan authorized 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 John 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.

###