

# STATE OF WISCONSIN

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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **JFC to Hear, Vote On Responsible Stimulus Plan Legislation**

*Budget-writing committee seeks to move bills that would dedicate Federal funds to state priorities*

**Madison**--State Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) and Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC), released the following statement regarding the committee's plan to hold a public hearing and executive session on 11 bills related to the legislature's plan to re-invest one-time, Federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to state priorities:

"We are on the starting line of the legislature's work on the state budget, but we do not know how – or when – the Governor will allocate the massive amount of Federal funding available to Wisconsin in the most recent stimulus plan," Sen. Marklein said. "Our legislation provides specific plans based on the real priorities of citizens statewide. We need to dedicate these funds in a meaningful way that will support the people of our state who are working to recover and move forward after the last unprecedented year."

"We cannot ask state taxpayers to foot the bill if there is Federal cash available to us that could pay for our priorities. These are all tax dollars, paid for by tax payers. We need to spend them wisely," Sen. Marklein said. "The Responsible Stimulus plan does that. It invests in people. It pays for infrastructure like local roads and broadband to help us recover. It will boost our economy."

"The people of Wisconsin deserve to have their voices heard through their elected Representatives and Senators on how all of this federal money is spent," said Rep. Born. "As I've said before, this money should not be unilaterally allocated by one person. Republicans in the legislature have put together a package of bills that truly reflect the priorities of the people of Wisconsin and the Governor should work with us to make these bills a reality."

"I will also continue to highlight how unfortunate it is that Governor Evers vetoed Legislative oversight of federal funds," said Rep. Born. "Once again, the Governor has chosen the go-it-alone approach, but that won't stop Legislative Republicans from advancing this package, which includes a number of items including grants to small business and tourism, funding for broadband expansion, and aid to households that will directly benefit the residents of Wisconsin."

The JFC will hold a public hearing of the following 11 Senate bills en masse. The JFC will hold an executive session on these bills following the public hearing.

**Senate Bill 271**

Relating to: allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds for certain environmental purposes and granting rule-making authority.

**Senate Bill 272**

Relating to: retiring public debt and transportation revenue bonds.

**Senate Bill 273**

Relating to: allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds for a statewide public safety interoperable communication system, emergency services IP network contracts, a geographic information systems database, and psychiatric treatment beds.

**Senate Bill 274**

Relating to: allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds for local highways and bridges.

**Senate Bill 275**

Relating to: tourism industry grants.

**Senate Bill 276**

Relating to: deposits into the unemployment reserve fund.

**Senate Bill 277**

Relating to: payments to certain long-term care facilities and their staff.

**Senate Bill 278**

Relating to: the use of certain federal funds for broadband expansion grants.

**Senate Bill 279**

Relating to: assistance to households and property owners.

**Senate Bill 280**

Relating to: rural economic development programs administered by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and farm support grants.

**Senate Bill 281**

Relating to: grants for certain small businesses.

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