



SENATOR JANET BEWLEY

MINORITY LEADER
WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 2021

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Now Is Not The Time For Republicans To Gamble On The Future Of Our Paper Industry

The State has a Four Billion Dollar Surplus. Governor Evers made the right call in vetoing legislation that relied on possibly illegal use of ARPA funds for Loans for Verso and Park Falls Paper Mills.

MADISON – When the Republican controlled Legislature passed Assembly Bill 367, they ignored a non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau memo which cast serious doubt on our ability to use American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds for loans to paper mills in Wisconsin Rapids and Park Falls. State Senate Minority Leader Janet Bewley (D-Mason), released the following statement about Governor Evers veto:

“The State is projected to have a surplus of 4.4 billion dollars. Governor Evers made the right call in vetoing legislation that relied on possibly illegal use of ARPA funds for loans for Verso and Park Falls Paper Mills. There’s no need for the Republican controlled Legislature to gamble on the future of our Paper Industry. We can get this done in short order by setting aside a tiny fraction of that surplus - less than 1.5 percent - for loans that will help ensure the health of our forest and paper industries. It’s time to put partisan political posturing aside. We have compromise language that was worked out on a phone call with the Governor, Senator Testin, Representative Krug and Stakeholders. Let’s use that as a starting point and get to work.”



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