



State Representative Dan LeMahieu Presents

THE LEMAHIEU REPORT

News & Notes from the 59th Assembly District

STATE BUDGET PASSES

Last week the Legislature, with the objections of every Republican, passed the state budget and Governor Doyle signed it on Monday. Why did every Republican including myself vote NO?

This budget is built on the backs of financially stressed taxpayers during a time when most families are balancing their budgets by cutting back and just trying to make ends meet week after week.

This budget uses \$2.1 billion of one time stimulus money, increases taxes by \$3 billion and increases state spending by nearly 7% over last year. During a time when Wisconsin's unemployed workers number 130,000 and climbing daily, this budget will kill Wisconsin jobs. With unemployment approaching 10%, this budget makes it that much easier for jobs and industry to leave Wisconsin. Instead of balancing the budget the Democrats will leave us with a \$2.2 billion deficit at the end of the biennium.

What do the Democrats, who control the Assembly, Senate and the governor's office, say about this budget? "We got it done on time." They don't talk about the deals behind closed doors. They don't talk about the votes at 3:00 in the morning. They don't talk about the millions of dollars of earmarks. They don't talk about all the policy that the public was never given a chance to debate that was crammed in the budget because they couldn't get enough votes to pass as separate legislation.

This budget will kill jobs, increase our state debt, hit the middle class wage earners in the pocketbook and prolong the recession in Wisconsin. Who wins? Unions, WEAC

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and trial lawyers. Who loses? Hard working taxpayers.

The Democrats have had total control of state government for 5 months and have raised taxes by \$5 billion. Local property taxes are projected to increase by \$1.5 billion next year due to this budget. Add in the cap and trade and government run health insurance that the federal government wants to impose and it is hard to see a light at the end of the tunnel for taxpayers.

As I attend the picnics and parades throughout my district this summer, the question I get asked the most is what state government is doing to protect my job? So far this session, most of the legislation, including the state budget passed by the Democrats has done absolutely nothing. The Republicans held meetings with business leaders throughout the state over the last few months. We have a number of bills we plan on introducing that will give incentives to business to stay in Wisconsin and come to Wisconsin to maintain and create jobs. In future newsletters I will explain what some of those incentives will be. Hopefully we will get cooperation from the Democrats so we can stop the flow of jobs out of Wisconsin.

FREEDOMS

This weekend as you celebrate the Fourth of July with your family and friends don't forget to take a few minutes to remember the freedoms we have in this country and those who have protected those freedoms in the past and are protecting them even today.

The United States is still a great country, not because of our government or our leaders, but because of the people who work hard every day and are responsible and accountable to those around them.

Our government continues to grow and take over many of the responsibilities that belong to the individual. Let's remind our leaders what has made this country strong. Things like individual responsibility, hard work, and the ability to better yourself economically without losing your gains to the government. The list can go on and on but we are moving away from those values to a country where there is no incentive because the government will take care

of you.

It is time for all of us to speak out. I think everyone should be required to watch the movie “Braveheart”. I caught part of it on TV last week and I can still hear William Wallace say to his fellow Scottish countrymen right before going to battle with the English, *“And dying in your beds, many years from now, would you be willin' to trade ALL the days, from this day to that, for one chance, just one chance, to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they'll never take... OUR FREEDOM!”*

Fortunately, we aren't faced with those life and death situations on American soil. That is because we have brave men and women protecting our freedoms today around the world. But we are faced with the slow erosion of all the things that made our country great. We can't wait two, three or four years from now and all of a sudden find out that our government has grown so large and has taken over so much of our private sector business that it is too late to turn back. We need to speak out now about the direction our country is going. We can't wait.

Again, this weekend think of our freedoms and think about what has made our country great.

Have a safe and happy Fourth!