



JIM OTT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 23rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-0486
District: (262) 240-0808
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0023
Rep.Ottj@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 324.

When the Legislature authorized the Milwaukee Brewers specialized license plates in 2010, the fundraising portion of the registration fee was designated to pay off the bonds related to the construction of Miller Park. However, the Legislature was silent on how the funds should be allocated once the bonds were retired and, as the time for retiring the bonds approaches, now is a good time to act.

SB 324 simply states that once the Miller Park bonds are retired, the debt having been paid off, the fundraising portion of the registration fee for the Brewer's license plates will be allocated to county in which the vehicle is registered. The funds can be used by the county for any purpose the county chooses.

As a member of the Miller Park Stadium District Board, I believe SB 324 accomplishes two things: First, it will be an economic benefit, albeit small, to the counties that have a large number of vehicles with Brewer's plates. Second, it shows a good faith effort on the part of the Legislature, reminding taxpayers that when the Miller Park bonds are retired the tax will be too, and will not be allocated for another purpose. This will be a strong statement that the tax ends when the bonds are retired.

The Assembly companion bill, AB 162, passed out of the Transportation Committee on a unanimous vote. It is now in the Rules Committee.

SB 324 has the support of the Miller Park Board and the Milwaukee Brewers.

STATE SENATOR
Leah Vukmir

**Senate Committee on Government Operations,
Technology and Consumer Protection**

Thursday, August 31, 2017

Senate Bill 324

Chairman Stroebel and committee members, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for providing Representative Ott and myself the opportunity to testify on behalf of our bill.

This legislation establishes that once the professional ball park district's bonds have been paid off, revenues collected from specialty license plate (Brewers plates) sales will be distributed to the counties.

The professional baseball park district was afforded the authority to impose a sale and use tax as well as issue bonds for the purpose of constructing and managing the Miller Park facilities. The district was also partially funded by license plate fees associated with the purchase of specialty plates. Once the remainder of the bonds issued by the professional ball park district are paid off, the revenue generated by special license plate sales will be distributed to the county in which the vehicle plate was issued.

Given the professional baseball park district will no longer need the proceeds applied to bond payments, under this bill counties will be the recipients of the additional revenue. This bill is a commonsense allocation that will address county budget shortfalls, resulting in reduced fiscal backfill from the state.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on Senate Bill 324. Please contact me or my office with any questions you may have.

WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707
PHONE (608) 266-2512
EMAIL Sen.Vukmir@legis.wi.gov
WEBSITE www.SenatorVukmir.com

