# ROGER BRESKE

## STATE SENATOR

12th District

Capitol Address: State Capitol P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882 (608) 266-2509

Legislative Hotline: 1 (800) 362-9472



Home Address: 8800 Hwy. 29 Eland, WI 54427 (715) 454-6575

April 15, 1999

The Honorable Brian Burke, Co-Chair Joint Committee on Finance The State Capitol Room No. 316 South VIA INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MAIL

RE: **Budget Recommendations** 

Dear Senator Burke:

Enclosed, please find seven formal budget recommendations recently passed by the Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism, Transportation & Corrections for your consideration. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to share our views with the members of the Joint Committee on Finance.

As always, please feel free to give me a call should you have any questions or concerns.

ROGER RESKE, CHAIRMAN Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism, Transportation and Corrections

cc: Members, Committee on Insurance, Tourism, Transportation and Corrections

RB/vlv

### **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

# **Department of Public Instruction – School District Operations**

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 505, Item 2

Governor: Prohibit a public school from commencing the school term prior to September 1, beginning in 2001. Specify that this provision would not prohibit a school board from: (a) holding athletic contests or practices before September 1; (b) scheduling in-service days or work days prior to September 1; or (c) holding school year-round. Provide that these provisions would also apply to MPS.

Senator Breske: Given the ever-increasing demands on Wisconsin families and the difficulties they face in finding quality time together, expanding the summer tourism season by as little as two weeks offers a tremendous opportunity for families to spend additional time together. Establishing a uniform school start date after September 1, is also estimated to increase tourism revenues in our state by more than \$66 million while simultaneously generating approximately \$11 million in tourism-related revenue for our local governments.

Motion: Restore the Governor's recommendation.

### **MOTION PASSED**

Ayes: 5; Breske, Zien, Lasee, Shibilski, & Schultz

Noes: 2; Grobschmidt & Baumgart

Relating to the establishment of a uniform school start date.

### **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

### <u>Department of Transportation - State Patrol (Additional Officers)</u>

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 606, Item 1

**Governor**: Provide \$321,900 SEG, \$189,000 SEG-S and 9.0 SEG positions in 1999-00 and \$808,600 SEG, \$143,600 SEG-S and 14.0 SEG positions in 2000-01 to increase the size of the state traffic patrol.

Senator Breske: Wisconsin currently ranks lowest in the country for its commitment to highway safety based on its investment in state patrol officers. Wisconsin citizens overwhelmingly support the addition of state patrol officers who are charged with the enforcement of important traffic regulations and who are routinely called upon to assist other law enforcement agencies. We must invest in additional officers to ensure public safety throughout the state.

**Motion**: Support the Governor's recommendation.

### **MOTION PASSED**

Ayes: 5; Breske, Zien, Schultz, Baumgart, & Grobschmidt

Noes: 2; Shibilski & Lasee

### **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

### **Department of Transportation – State Highway Program**

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 590, Item 5

**Governor**: Provide \$510,000 in 2000-01 for the procurement of an inventory system for outdoor advertising signs along highways eligible for federal aid. DOT would also increase related sign permit fees and create an annual renewal fee by administrative rule.

Senator Breske: Under current law, the regulation of outdoor advertising signs is largely a decision for local governments, which, in most instances, have the authority to restrict or even prohibit them. DOT also currently has the authority to charge fees for outdoor advertising signs. In fact, current rules already provide for the imposition of a one-time fee. Surrounding states do NOT have an annual fee. Nor do they have fees higher than those already assessed in Wisconsin. Given the importance of outdoor advertising to many of Wisconsin's most important industries (including tourism), this provision should be eliminated in its entirety.

**Motion**: Delete the Governor's recommendation.

### **MOTION PASSED**

Ayes: 4; Breske, Zien, Shibilski & Lasee Noes: 3; Schultz, Baumgart & Grobschmidt

## **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

## General Fund Taxes - Real Estate Transfer Fee & Sales Tax on Time-Share Property

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 47, Item 3

Governor: The Governor's recommendation would subject all sales of time-share property to the state sales tax. The provision would also specify that charges associated with taxable time-share property would be taxable at the time the charges are incurred, even if those charges were not taxable at the time of the initial sale of the time-share property.

Senator Breske: Under current law, flex-time and fixed-time time shares are treated inconsistently. The sale of the former is subject to the sales tax whereas the latter is subject to the real estate transfer fee. Wisconsin is the only state which applies the sales tax to the sale of any time share property. While the Governor is correct in urging the uniform treatment of time-share properties, consumers are better served and protected by the application of the real estate transfer fee rather than the sales tax.

**Motion**: Delete the Governor's recommendation and apply the real estate transfer fee to all time-share sales.

### **MOTION PASSED**

Ayes: 5; Breske, Schultz, Shibilski, Baumgart, & Grobschmidt

Noes: 1; Lasee Not voting: Zien

### **Motion 4**

Relating to the Real Estate Transfer Fee and Time-Share Properties

### **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

### **Department of Tourism - Tribal Gaming Revenue for Tourism Marketing**

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 572, Item 2

Governor: Create a continuing appropriation of \$4 million each year from tribal gaming revenues for tourism marketing. Authorize expenditures for general advertising and promotion of the state as well as funding the Joint Effort marketing program (JEM) which offers grants to non-profit tourism promotion organizations for advertising innovative events and attractions in the state.

**Senator Breske**: Funding for statewide tourism promotions is far under that of our neighboring states and primary competitors in the tourism marketplace. The Department of Tourism has been forced for too long to limit its outreach to traditional markets and has been hamstrung in its attempts to increase and expand Wisconsin's tourism market share elsewhere.

**Motion**: Support a \$4 million annual increase in the tourism marketing appropriation.

### **MOTION PASSED**

Ayes: 7; Breske, Zien, Shibilski, Schultz, Lasee, Baumgart

& Grobschmidt Noes: None

**Motion 5** 

Relating to the Tourism Marketing Appropriation

## **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

### **Department of Tourism - Exemption from Open Records Law**

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 573, Item 6

Governor: Allow Tourism to withhold mailing lists and other identifying information of persons who have requested tourism information from those seeking such information under the Open Records Law. Also, allow the Department to charge a fee to cover the costs of compiling and supplying any such information it does provide and allow Tourism to reduce or waive the fee if the Department believes that the reduction or waiver is in the public interest.

Senator Breske: We have invested significant state resources in the Department of Tourism's research database. Under current law, any person can demand access to our market research and/or database for a nominal photocopying or disk fee. In order to better protect our investment, it is important that the Department be allowed to withhold this data from our competitors and others. The Governor's recommendation also provides that the Department may be able to generate fee revenue from the investment we have already made, making this limited exemption a fiscal issue worthy of inclusion in the state budget.

Motion: Restore Governor's recommendation.

### **MOTION PASSED**

Ayes: 6; Breske, Zien, Lasee, Schultz, Shibilski, & Grobschmidt

Noes: 1; Baumgart

### Motion 6

Relating to the Limited Exemption for Tourism from the Open Records Law

## **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

### **Tourism - Equity in Gaming Provision**

Not included in the LFB summary of the Governor's Budget Recommendations.

Governor: No provision

Current law: Under current law (effective 12/31/99), a tavern owner or other small business person may be fined \$10,000 and imprisoned for five (5) years simply for operating a video gaming machine in their establishment.

**Senator Breske**: Current law establishes a penalty that is disproportionate to the offense and which adversely affects our tourism industry. It also poses a serious and unnecessary burden on our criminal justice and corrections systems.

**Motion**: Eliminate the current penalty for the operation of video gaming machines and substitute in its place a maximum \$500 civil forfeiture.

### **MOTION PASSED**

Ayes: 6; Breske, Schultz, Zien, Lasee, Baumgart & Shibilski

Noes: 1; Grobschmidt

Motion 7

Relating to the Penalties for Video Gaming in Taverns



44 EAST MIFFLIN STREET, SUITE 101 MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703 608-286-0764

April 26, 1999

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Janet R. Swandby

Janet R. Swandby JWM Executive Director and Lobbyist

RE: Support for Albers' Motion Limiting Annual Billboard Fees (DOT Budget)

(LFB Summary page 590, #5)

The Governor's Biennial Budget contains additional monies to be collected as a new fee to be charged annually by the DOT for each billboard (outdoor advertising sign structure) in the State. DOT currently has the authority to charge fees for billboards, and the Department does charge an application fee when a new billboard is constructed. This is a one-time fee.

The budget calls for **new ANNUAL renewal fees**.

Surrounding states do not have an annual fee (Illinois) or have fees much lower than those proposed by DOT for Wisconsin (Iowa - \$15-\$50/year; Michigan - \$25-\$40/year).

OAAW believes it should not cost Wisconsin any more than surrounding states to regulate billboards.

Representative Sheryl Albers will be offering a motion in Committee to assure that the Wisconsin DOT matches the efficiencies of surrounding states in its regulation of billboards. Her motion will restrict DOT from collecting more than \$50 annually for any outdoor advertising sign structure.

We ask you to support Representative Albers' motion.

If you have questions, please feel free to give me a call. Thank you for your help.

# ROGER BRESKE

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# **MEMORANDUM**

April 12, 1999

Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism TO:

Transportation & Corrections

FR: Roger Breske, Chair Q.B.

Formal Budget Recommendations RE:

Attached, please find seven (7) formal budget motions for your consideration. These recommendations are based, in large part, on the testimony that we heard during our recent budget hearings.

Please complete and return your ballots to my office before noon on April 14th. As you know, the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance have established an April 15th deadline for submission of formal budget recommendations from standing committees.

As always, please feel free to give me a call should you have any questions or concerns.

## **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

# <u>Department of Public Instruction - School District Operations</u>

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 505, Item 2

**Governor**: Prohibit a public school from commencing the school term prior to September 1, beginning in 2001. Specify that this provision would not prohibit a school board from: (a) holding athletic contests or practices before September 1; (b) scheduling in-service days or work days prior to September 1; or (c) holding school year-round. Provide that these provisions would also apply to MPS.

**Senator Breske**: Given the ever-increasing demands on Wisconsin families and the difficulties they face in finding quality time together, expanding the summer tourism season by as little as two weeks offers a tremendous opportunity for families to spend additional time together. Establishing a uniform school start date after September 1, is also estimated to increase tourism revenues in our state by more than \$66 million while simultaneously generating approximately \$11 million in tourism-related revenue for our local governments.

Motion:	Restore the Governor's recommendation.			
		Aye No	•	
		Signature:		
		Date:		

### Motion 1

Relating to the establishment of a uniform school start date.

# **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

# <u>Department of Transportation - State Patrol (Additional Officers)</u>

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 606, Item 1

**Governor**: Provide \$321,900 SEG, \$189,000 SEG-S and 9.0 SEG positions in 1999-00 and \$808,600 SEG, \$143,600 SEG-S and 14.0 SEG positions in 2000-01 to increase the size of the state traffic patrol.

Senator Breske: Wisconsin currently ranks lowest in the country for its commitment to highway safety based on its investment in state patrol officers. Wisconsin citizens overwhelmingly support the addition of state patrol officers who are charged with the enforcement of important traffic regulations and who are routinely called upon to assist other law enforcement agencies. We must invest in additional officers to ensure public safety throughout the state.

Motion: Support the Governor's recommendation.

Aye No	
No	
Signature:	
Date:	

Motion 2

Relating to additional Wisconsin State Patrol traffic officers

# **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

# **Department of Transportation -State Highway Program**

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 590, Item 5

**Governor**: Provide \$510,000 in 2000-01 for the procurement of an inventory system for outdoor advertising signs along highways eligible for federal aid. DOT would also increase related sign permit fees and create an annual renewal fee by administrative rule.

Senator Breske: Under current law, the regulation of outdoor advertising signs is largely a decision for local governments, which, in most instances, have the authority to restrict or even prohibit them. DOT also currently has the authority to charge fees for outdoor advertising signs. In fact, current rules already provide for the imposition of a one-time fee. Surrounding states do NOT have an annual fee. Nor do they have fees lower than those already assessed in Wisconsin. Given the importance of outdoor advertising to many of Wisconsin's most important industries (including tourism), this provision should be eliminated in its entirety.

Motion: Delete the Governor's recommendation.

Aye	
Aye No	
•	
Signature:	•
Date:	

Motion 3

### **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

General Fund Taxes - Real Estate Transfer Fee & Sales Tax on Time-Share Property

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 47, Item 3

Governor: The Governor's recommendation would subject all sales of time-share property to the state sales tax. The provision would also specify that charges associated with taxable time-share property would be taxable at the time the charges are incurred, even if those charges were not taxable at the time of the initial sale of the time-share property.

Senator Breske: Under current law, flex-time and fixed-time time shares are treated inconsistently. The sale of the former is subject to the sales tax whereas the latter is subject to the real estate transfer fee. Wisconsin is the only state which applies the sales tax to the sale of any time share property. While the Governor is correct in urging the uniform treatment of time-share properties, consumers are better served and protected by the application of the real estate transfer fee rather than the sales tax.

**Motion**: Delete the Governor's recommendation and apply the real estate transfer fee to all time-share sales.

	Aye No		
	No	•	
•			
,	Signature:		
	Date:		

### **Motion 4**

Relating to the Real Estate Transfer Fee and Time-Share Properties

## **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

# Department of Tourism - Tribal Gaming Revenue for Tourism Marketing

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**Senator Breske**: Funding for statewide tourism promotions is far under that of our neighboring states and primary competitors in the tourism marketplace. The Department of Tourism has been forced for too long to limit its outreach to traditional markets and has been hamstrung in its attempts to increase and expand Wisconsin's tourism market share elsewhere.

Motion: Support a \$4 million increase in the tourism marketing appropriation.

Aye	
Aye No	
•	
Signature:	
Date:	

Motion 5
Relating to the Tourism Marketing Appropriation

## **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

## **Department of Tourism - Exemption from Open Records Law**

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Motion: Restore Governor's recommendation.

Governor: Allow Tourism to withhold mailing lists and other identifying information of persons who have requested tourism information from those seeking such information under the Open Records Law. Also, allow the Department to charge a fee to cover the costs of compiling and supplying any such information it does provide and allow Tourism to reduce or waive the fee if the Department believes that the reduction or waiver is in the public interest.

Senator Breske: We have invested significant state resources in the Department of Tourism's research database. Under current law, any person can demand access to our market research and/or database for a nominal photocopying or disk fee. In order to better protect our investment, it is important that the Department be allowed to withhold this data from our competitors and others. The Governor's recommendation also provides that the Department may be able to generate fee revenue from the investment we have already made, making this limited exemption a fiscal issue worthy of inclusion in the state budget.

	]	Aye No
		Signature:
9		Date:

## **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

### **Tourism - Equity in Gaming Provision**

Not included in the LFB summary of the Governor's Budget Recommendations.

Governor: No provision

Current law: Under current law (effective 12/31/99), a tavern owner or other small business person may be fined \$10,000 and imprisoned for five (5) years simply for operating a video gaming machine in their establishment.

**Senator Breske**: Current law establishes a penalty that is disproportionate to the offense and which adversely affects our tourism industry. It also poses a serious and unnecessary burden on our criminal justice and corrections systems.

**Motion**: Eliminate the current penalty for the operation of video gaming machines and substitute in its place a maximum \$500 civil forfeiture.

 Aye		
Aye No		
Signature:		
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ъ.		
Date:		

Motion 7
Relating to the Penalties for Video Gaming in Taverns

### **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

### **Department of Transportation - State Highway Program**

LFB Summary of Governor's Budget Recommendations, Page 590, Item 5

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Motion: Delete the Governor's recommendation.

X Aye □ No

Signature:

**Motion 3** 

# **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

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Motion: Delete the Governor's recommendation.

Aye

ablaNo

Signature:  $\int m \beta am gas$ Date: 4-14-99

Motion 3

# **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

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Motion: Delete the Governor's recommendation.

No		
Signature:		
Date: _	4-13-99	

# **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

# **Department of Transportation - State Highway Program**

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Motion: Delete the Governor's recommendation.

X Aye □ No

Signature

Data

Motion 3

## **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

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Motion: Delete the Governor's recommendation.

Tom Jackson Via Phane. □ Aye ⊠ No

Signature

Date: 4(-14-99

Motion 3

# **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

### **Tourism – Equity in Gaming Provision**

Not included in the LFB summary of the Governor's Budget Recommendations.

Governor: No provision

Current law: Under current law (effective 12/31/99), a tavern owner or other small business person may be fined \$10,000 and imprisoned for five (5) years simply for operating a video gaming machine in their establishment.

**Senator Breske**: Current law establishes a penalty that is disproportionate to the offense and which adversely affects our tourism industry. It also poses a serious and unnecessary burden on our criminal justice and corrections systems.

**Motion**: Eliminate the current penalty for the operation of video gaming machines and substitute in its place a maximum \$500 civil forfeiture.

Aye No

Signature

Date: 4/-/3-9

Motion 7
Relating to the Penalties for Video Gaming in Taverns

## **Budget Recommendation Motion**

Senator Roger Breske, Chair

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**Motion**: Eliminate the current penalty for the operation of video gaming machines and substitute in its place a maximum \$500 civil forfeiture.

Aye

No

Signature:

Date: 4-14-9

Motion 7
Relating to the Penalties for Video Gaming in Taverns

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**Motion**: Eliminate the current penalty for the operation of video gaming machines and substitute in its place a maximum \$500 civil forfeiture.

Aye

Signature:

Date

Motion 7

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Motion: Eliminate the current penalty for the operation of video gaming machines and substitute in its place a maximum \$500 civil forfeiture.

Aye □ No

Signature:

Date: 4 - 14 - 99

Motion 7
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**Motion**: Eliminate the current penalty for the operation of video gaming machines and substitute in its place a maximum \$500 civil forfeiture.

✓ Aye□ No

Signature:

Motion 7
Relating to the Penalties for Video Gaming in Taverns

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**Motion**: Eliminate the current penalty for the operation of video gaming machines and substitute in its place a maximum \$500 civil forfeiture.

Aye
No
Signature:

Motion 7

Relating to the Penalties for Video Gaming in Taverns