



SCOTT FITZGERALD

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2008

Contact – Senator Scott Fitzgerald, (608) 266-5660

Democrats Confirm Tax and Spend Stereotype

Budget repair bill raises job-killing taxes to fund pork projects

[Madison, Wisc....] Massive new tax increases proposed in the Senate Democrats' budget repair bill, introduced only hours before a Senate Committee was set to vote on the measure, will hamper the business community's ability to stave-off job losses in order to fund their own pork project wish lists, Senate Republican Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) said today.

"The Democrats have never encountered a problem that they couldn't try to tax and spend their way out of," Fitzgerald. "Increasing costs for employers kills jobs, plain and simple. It is irresponsible for the Democrats to try to fix their fiscal mess by putting people's jobs in jeopardy and demand even more money from the 8th highest taxed people in the nation to fund their pork barrel projects."

Among other provisions, the budget repair bill offered today by Senate Democrats includes:

- a \$130 million tax increase on employers in Wisconsin,
- a \$416 million tax increase on hospitals
- a \$1.3 million increase in sales tax collections
- and a \$4.2 million increase in the rental car tax

The Democrats' plan would spend much of this new tax revenue on the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee(KRM) commuter rail line that was eliminated from the budget last fall due to its high cost.

"What part of 'economic slowdown' do the Democrats not understand?" Fitzgerald asked. "Instead of fixing the budget deficit the responsible way through savings and efficiencies, the Democrats are taking even more money out of the economy at a time when our constituents can least afford it. This reckless taxing and spending is a recipe for an economic disaster."

###

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. Box 7882 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882 • SEN.FITZGERALD@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV

TELEPHONE: (608) 266-5660 • FAX: (608) 267-6795