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SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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One Party Control Costs Taxpayers \$5 Billion

[Madison, Wisc....] Senate Republican Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) issued the following statement after Governor Doyle signed the 2009-2011 state budget bill into law:

Governor Doyle had the opportunity to veto the massive tax and fee increases Democrats included in this budget bill. Unfortunately, he finalized the \$3.6 billion in tax hikes on Wisconsin families and employers. This is the latest in the long line of tax increases the Governor has signed into law this session. He and his Democrat colleagues have increased taxes and borrowing by \$5 billion in less than five months.

Governor Doyle's vetoes include the elimination of binding referendums to increase the sales tax for mass transit, making it easier to implement the new taxes despite voter opposition. Other changes cement a tax on cell phone users with the revenue being used as a slush fund for municipal budgets. Why is the Governor unwilling to allow the public a voice in the decision to increase taxes on themselves?

What speaks louder than the Governor's vetoes are the proposals that he didn't change. Major policy provisions that should have been debated on their own merits were not pulled from the budget. The auto insurance changes will raise rates for Wisconsin vehicle owners to one of the highest in the country. The elimination of the QEO will make it difficult for school districts to balance their budgets and hold down property tax increases. He also protected new liquor license provisions across the state at a time when the Legislature is about to debate changes to our state's drunk driving laws.

When Wisconsin is facing a massive budget deficit, high unemployment, and a crippling recession, the Governor also signed major pork provisions into law. He protected pieces of pork like \$5 million for Bradley Center renovations and \$50,000 for recycle bins for Wrightstown.

The tax increases in this budget will have a detrimental effect on our struggling economy and our state's business environment. At a time when our state needs to create jobs, the Democrats are killing them. The Legislature's main priority should be growing jobs and reducing the tax burden on Wisconsin working families. Instead, the Democrats are haphazardly increasing taxes and fees that will harm our state and threaten its future financial and economic health.

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