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Governor Evers,

After listening to your State of the State Address, one thing you said—and repeated on several occasions—was the need to work together. I couldn't agree more. There are issues facing Wisconsin that require a collaborative approach. I have always been willing to work with anyone toward a common goal.

That said, I would be remiss if I didn't express my disappointment with certain aspects of your address last evening. It is unfortunate that Milwaukee and Milwaukee County received little to no attention. You have referred to these communities as the economic engine of the state, but yet their untapped potential is being overlooked.

The truth is that Milwaukee and Milwaukee County desperately need a coherent plan to address the public safety crisis. These challenges, in my view, exceed the capacity of local government alone and require collaboration from the State of Wisconsin. The environment of chaos stifles progress in public safety and sets communities back years. Leadership is required from both state and local leaders to understand the urgency of our situation.

As you know, I have been named Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Urban Revitalization; I take this appointment very seriously. As an Alderman in Milwaukee, my primary goal was to ensure the city functioned effectively for taxpaying citizens and provided essential services. As Chairman, I want to explore strategies to go beyond that goal and truly assist in a revival of our decaying urban areas. What better community to start with than Milwaukee. With all this in mind, and in the spirit of new collaboration, I am writing you to join me, for a walk through some of Milwaukee's most challenged neighborhoods. Let us see first-hand what we are up against. Let us talk to citizens where they are. Let us see precisely what needs to occur to improve their lives. Only then, I believe, can we begin the collaborative work necessary to restoring our once-great cities.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes,

Bob Donovan

State Representative – 61st Assembly District