



TOURISM FEDERATION OF WISCONSIN

"Wisconsin Tourism's Legislative Voice"

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**To: Representative Robin Vos, Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker
Senator Scott Fitzgerald, Wisconsin State Senate Majority Leader**

Date: April 10, 2020

Re: Property Tax Relief Proposal

The Tourism Federation of Wisconsin recently requested measures to assist the tourism industry, which, as you know, has been decimated due to Covid-19. As you work on a Covid-19 relief package, we urge your support for one of our measures in particular, property tax relief.

We understand that there is an effort to delay property tax payments and waive late payment fees until October, 2020. The extension will help but it is not enough. There will likely be pent up demand for travel but it will most likely expand gradually over an extended period of time. This gradual reintroduction to travel will result in further economic hardship for our industry. It is doubtful that the economy and businesses will be fully operational this summer. With little income expected, businesses will not be able to afford to pay their property taxes in October and most certainly not with 18% interest added. This is, without a doubt, one of the biggest concerns facing our tourism businesses, and will only exacerbate the dismal situation our industry and economy currently faces.

Municipalities and County governments will have the ability to secure short-term financing through bonding, borrowing, and more than likely through Federal relief programs at a very low interest rate. They do not need to charge 18% to the taxpayers in their community.

To assist our struggling tourism businesses, **we respectfully request that the State relief legislation:**

- **Removes the 18% interest fee on all late payments of property taxes for a period of 10 months, from October 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021.**
- **Removes the penalty fee on all late payments.**

Thank you for your consideration.

