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For Immediate Release

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State Senate Candidate Says Check The Tracks Ahead !

JANESVILLE, WI – State Senator Robson voted Tuesday to spend \$47.5 million of taxpayer money in a no-bid contract on 28 train cars. Robson cited “job creation” as partial justification for her vote to have Wisconsin taxpayers buy Amtrak its’ train cars. Only two other states, including California, own Amtrak train cars.

Rick Richard, district 15 state senate candidate, said “At \$47.5M for 80 jobs, that’s a cost of about \$600,000 per job to Wisconsin taxpayers.”

Richard, whose campaign platform includes bringing jobs to the area, said we should have guarantees of hundreds of jobs for the Rock County and Whitewater area before rushing to add \$47M to taxpayer debt.

Richard said “Look at the hundreds of jobs communities have won for less than \$47M. For \$10M in state incentives plus property tax abatement, Caterpillar broke ground this year to provide 1,400 jobs to Seguin, Texas. For \$42.5M in tax incentives, Greensburg, IN had Honda start production last year, which will employ 2,000 at full capacity.”

The taxpayer subsidized premise of rail costs, including track upgrades and maintenance, is also being debated in Wisconsin. Proponents of rail claim that trains will allow them to lounge in train cars traveling at speeds in excess of 100 MPH, all while surfing the net, and cutting carbon emissions.

But Richard disagrees with this notion: “The average speed will be 70mph, about the same as auto travel, except that the train won’t take you to your final destination, unless you’re visiting the train station. And a recent Florida study cites that with the limited percentage of cars taken off the road with a line that runs parallel to an interstate, the overall affect is a net increase in emissions when including the train’s carbon emissions.”

Richard also said that our state is rightfully moving to cleaner energy, and it’s most successfully accomplished not by bigger government and adding to taxpayer debt, but rather with education and personal tax credits.

For more information about Rick Richard, please visit www.voterickrichard.com

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