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## **Stubborn Energy Issues Resolved with End of Session**

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**Madison** – Bills allowing the EV charging buildout to move forward and to compensate communities hosting retiring power plants cleared their final legislative hurdles last week when the Legislature signed off on SB 791 and SB 67.

Passage of the bills, introduced in two consecutive sessions, took several years to resolve but pave the way for vendors to sell electricity by the kilowatt hour for EV charging (SB 791), and create a longer glide path for aid payments to communities hosting utility facilities that are closing down operations (SB 67).

Under current law, only utilities regulated by the public service commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) may sell electricity to the public by the kilowatt hour and a change in statute was needed to allow persons to sell the electricity in this way. SB 791 creates this exemption from PSCW regulation provided that the electricity comes from the person's local utility or cooperative, and that they do not otherwise provide electricity to the public, either directly or indirectly. Among other things, the bill also imposes a 3 cents per Kwh tax on the electricity sold to pay for roads and generally prohibits governmental entities from competing with the private sector.

"It's great to finally get this issue resolved and allow the EV buildout to move forward," said Bill Skewes, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Utilities Association whose members supported the bill. "It was a heavy lift, given the number of stakeholders, and we applaud the Legislature for getting it over the finish line".

The Legislature also gave final approval to SB 67. Currently, local governments hosting power plants receive five years of decommissioning aid payments that are reduced from the base by 20% each year, until phased out. However, current law treats plants with multiple units differently than those with one unit or those with multiple power generating units that retire in the same year. SB 67 resolves this problem by defining "decommissioning" so that local governments do not experience an immediate drop off in their utility aid payments before all the power generation units are retired.

"Communities that host power plants deserve compensation for the services they provide," said Skewes. "This bill ensures that there's a shallower glide path when utility aid payments are reduced from the retirement of a generating unit, so the communities can adjust their budgets, accordingly". Both bills now head to the Governor's desk for his signature.

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