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NEWS RELEASE

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**Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter Testifies on State Budget’s Impacts on
Transportation and Natural Resources at Milwaukee Budget Hearing**

Milwaukee: Today Sierra Club Beyond Oil Subcommittee representative Bill Sell and other members of the [Coalition for More Responsible Transportation](#) (CMRT) testified before the Joint Finance Committee at the public hearing to discuss our organization’s serious concerns about the state budget’s impact on transportation and Wisconsin’s natural resources.

The proposed transportation budget eliminates complete streets and state funds for the Transportation Alternatives program critical for bike paths and sidewalks that foster pedestrian safety and healthier, cleaner alternatives to driving. We are concerned about the \$1.3 billion in bonding being too high. One way to reduce debt would be to cut unnecessary highway projects like the I-94 east west corridor that is slated to cost taxpayers \$850 million. Projects like that don’t make sense given that the local community opposes the project, people are driving less, and given that we could [fix this section of road for \\$371 million and expand transit](#) to alleviate traffic.

Considering the transit and rehab option for the I-94 east west corridor would free up \$500 million needed for other crucial budget needs, from stewardship; to DNR science, forestry and education staff; to County Land and Water Conservation staff; to transit and local road maintenance; to recycling grants for local communities; to state funding for Safe Routes to School; to public education; to public media; and the University of Wisconsin.

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Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club’s mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters from throughout Wisconsin working to promote clean energy and protect land and water resources.