



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ulice Payne Jr., chairman of the Bradley Center Board of Directors, today released the following statement regarding Governor Jim Doyle's request for state support for the Bradley Center in his 2009-2011 Capital Budget:

“We applaud the request by Governor Doyle for state funding to help preserve and maintain the Bradley Center, a one-of-a-kind gift to the people of Wisconsin by the late Jane Bradley Pettit. As a state-owned facility, the Bradley Center has always been the people's building. The time has come for the state and the people of Wisconsin to invest in its successful future.

“The Bradley Center was built without tax dollars and has operated for 21 years with no public funding, yet it has generated tens of millions of dollars in state and local taxes and has been a significant driver of economic development in downtown Milwaukee. Every penny generated by the Bradley Center has been invested back into the facility, its tenants and the community.

“Yet today, the need for capital repairs and building system replacements is outpacing the ability of the Bradley Center to pay for them. We have an aging structure that presents physical challenges, and must function in a rapidly changing sports and entertainment industry that presents significant business and economic challenges. The state support requested by Governor Doyle will help to keep the Bradley Center a viable economic engine, and will ensure Wisconsin continues to be a top destination for sports and the nation's best touring shows.

“Some have suggested it may be time to consider a new arena, but community discussion is at its very earliest stages, and there is little consensus on the idea. The Bradley Center needs attention and help now to succeed, thrive and continue to benefit the people of Wisconsin. We are pleased that Governor Doyle shares the view that public money should help support this valuable, state-owned asset.”