



The Fox Con

Just one month ago there was an announcement that was too good to be true about a factory coming to Wisconsin. Almost immediately the Governor ordered a Special Session in order to pass the "Foxconn" bill. I was immediately suspicious, and after reading the bill I knew I couldn't support it. It was written in a very sloppy manner with clawback provisions that read as "mays" instead of "shalls," language challenging our environmental security, troublingly ambiguous language around when they get our money (such as the statutory definition or lack thereof of a "significant" investment), but aside from all that it came with a 3 billion dollar price tag which we'd have to pay out of pocket from our state directly to Foxconn. Let me repeat that, this bill would have Foxconn pay basically nothing in taxes AND require the state of Wisconsin to pay them billions of dollars from our general funds year after year for 15 years. It was obvious that this is another example of corporate kleptocracy and I knew, from that alone, I couldn't support it. I immediately spoke out against it and [authored this article expressing my reservations](#).

Since there a lot more information has come out and every day the deal looks worse and worse. There have been numerous other community leaders, elected officials, economists, and opinionated experts from all sides of the political spectrum who have come out against the Fox Con. Here are a few:

[Conservative Economist Matthew Mitchell](#)

[Rep. David Bowen](#)

[Reps. Chris Taylor, Melissa Sargent and Terese Berceau](#)

[19th Neighbor Matt Flynn](#)

[Rep. Danny Riemer](#)

[Futurist Bob Chernow](#)

[Coverage of a town hall we did on it](#)

[Another one of our town halls](#)

[19th Neighbor Bruce Murphy](#)

Although I could keep going, I think you get the drift.

Wisconsin has a lot of great things to offer, such as our water (by the way, the type of manufacturing Foxconn does requires a LOT of water), our parks, our University System, etc. we don't need to bribe corporations to come here. The more we travel down the path of poaching companies to come here and paying them these extortion fees, the more we are going to have to do so in the future. It's a game we can't possibly win, and I'm not willing to play it.

True economic stability and growth comes from creating an environment where businesses want to relocate here because there are amazing public schools, universities, tech colleges, multi-modal transit systems, public parks and other green spaces and other amenities that make for a great quality of life. If we invested 3 billion dollars in our schools, our universities, our tech colleges, our parks, our road repair (all while hiring Wisconsin workers), renewable energy, etc. we would see a much more immediate return on investment, and we could reinvest that into other great things for our state.

We didn't have to gamble on Foxconn. We have to invest in what made Wisconsin wonderful in the first place.

Fully funding our public K-12 schools, world class university system, and technical colleges all across the state will ensure our workforce is competitively educated. Wisconsin's high environmental standards provide clean and safe communities, state and local parks, and nearly limitless access to outdoor recreation make Wisconsin a great place to remain after graduation. Giving companies and employees reasons to proudly call Wisconsin their home builds a true long-term investment with real and lasting positive economic effects for generations to come in a way bribing companies to come here never will.