

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**ANDY JORGENSEN**

43rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

\*HAND-DELIVERED\*

July 31, 2014

Governor Scott Walker  
115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

I was happy to read that you agreed with Representative Peter Barca's proposal for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to ban financial awards for companies that outsource jobs. Your newfound willingness to accept a Democratic idea is very commendable.

I am writing to request your support for 2013 Assembly Bill 45, the Made in America Act, to help ensure that Wisconsin tax dollars are not used to outsource American jobs.

The Made in America Act would grant preference to American-made materials used in state and local contracts as well as materials procured by state and local governments. The bill compliments the 2009 American Jobs Act (2009 Act 136) which specified that state service contracts (such as call centers) must keep jobs in America. The American Jobs Act passed both houses of the legislature on strong bipartisan votes.

The Made in America Act is prompted by the growing trend of outsourcing infrastructure construction projects. For example, the construction of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge was largely outsourced to China with only final assembly and installation done in the United States. The 3,000 Chinese workers on this project typically worked about 16 hours a day, seven days a week. For this exhausting labor, workers were paid about \$0.75 an hour.

Every dollar we spend in the United States on construction buys us not only a bridge or roadway, but also buys American jobs and a stronger economy. Buying cheaper materials from overseas might create the appearance of saving a little money in the short run, but if we don't stop using the people's tax dollars to create jobs in other countries, we won't come out ahead.

Unfortunately, this bill turned into partisan battle this session, and Assembly Republicans refused to advance the bill. However, I feel that your public support now would go a long way in protecting taxpayers from paying for outsourcing American jobs. I look forward to your response and am happy to meet with you to discuss this proposal further.

Sincerely,



ANDY JORGENSEN  
State Representative  
43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District