



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

October 26, 2015

Mark Hogan, CEO/Secretary  
Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation  
201 W. Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Hogan,

We write today with grave concern regarding the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's decision to offer tax incentives for a corporation that has announced it will eliminate 100 jobs from a Wisconsin community.

As elected representatives for the people of Rock County, we were devastated to hear that the City of Janesville is poised to lose 100 jobs at the John Deere warehouse. Our reaction turned from disappointment to outrage when we learned that WEDC announced last week that it had awarded John Deere \$2 million in tax incentives to – as you say - help “create 80 new jobs” in Horicon by eliminating 100 jobs in Janesville.

The dutiful taxpayers of Janesville and surrounding communities – who help fund WEDC – are now losing the buying power and tax revenue of 100 full-time workers because WEDC is offering more than \$2 million in incentives for the company to relocate some of those jobs elsewhere in the state, and to eliminate the rest, outright.

This is concerning for several reasons:

- 1) WEDC is spending taxpayer money to take good jobs away from Wisconsin communities.
- 2) WEDC is touting the creation of 80 new jobs, while ignoring its active role in eliminating 100 jobs from Janesville.
- 3) WEDC is pitting community against community and picking favorites.

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WEDC's actions are a slap in the face to Rock County taxpayers who help fund the very agency that is actively taking jobs from our community.

We demand to know precisely when WEDC was made aware of John Deere's plan to eliminate 100 jobs in the Janesville area, and what efforts WEDC made to keep some or all of those jobs in Janesville.

We further wish to know whether or not WEDC made any attempt to require net job creation to the allocation of the \$2 million of taxpayer resources.

Finally, we want to know if any of the promised or allocated resources still can be rescinded or reclaimed, and what action WEDC will take to ensure that, in the future, taxpayer dollars are not allocated to companies which then immediately eliminate jobs in our state.

We eagerly await your response.

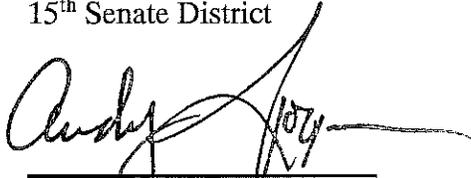
Sincerely,

  
**JANIS RINGHAND**

State Senator  
15<sup>th</sup> Senate District

  
**DEBRA KOLSTE**

State Representative  
44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

  
**ANDY JORGENSEN**

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

  
**MARK SPREITZER**

State Representative  
45<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Cc: Governor Scott Walker