



State Senator  
**Rick Gudex**

District 18

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### **Democrat Leadership Demands End to Open Debate**

*Democrats argue for the status-quo, rather than efficiency in state government*

**Madison**—Today, Rep. Barca and Sen. Lassa called upon the Governor and Sen. Gudex to abandon plans to merge WEDC and WHEDA into the Forward Wisconsin Development Authority before the administration, agencies and stakeholders have had an opportunity to layout the many benefits of merging the two agencies.

Sen. Gudex made the following comments, “I believe that the public supports the idea of transparency and input. Being targeted for wanting an open debate is disturbing. Ironically, the minority party has asked for public input in the past, and tried to tear this administration down with negative public statements at the same time, while we introduce a bill that will allow for public input on the proposed merger.

“These Democratic legislators continue to dredge up the difficulties that WEDC has had, while both have been members of the WEDC Board of Directors since its inception. They both have taken part in the decisions made by the board, and I believe that they must be accountable for their votes and decisions.

“By introducing a stand-alone bill, the Legislature will be afforded the opportunity to gather the needed public input that this vital Economic Development Authority deserves. The proposed bill provides the vehicle for a public hearing, adds to the transparency and will ultimately allow the Legislature to make the right decision regarding this merger.”

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