



State Senator  
**Rick Gudex**

District 18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 8, 2015

For More Information, contact:  
Sen. Gudex 608-266-5300

## **Wisconsin's Manufacturing Sector Sets the Standard**

*WEDC Helps Keep Wisconsin Nationally Competitive*

**Madison**—As our state celebrates Manufacturing Month, we need to highlight the work that the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. (WEDC) has done to lead Wisconsin's comeback. A few short years ago, Wisconsin was facing tough economic times with many skilled workers laid off and employers being hesitant to reinvest locally. However, things have dramatically changed in our state thanks to the bold policies and investments WEDC has led the charge on.

New tax credits have set the manufacturing and agricultural industries up for success, and investments in worker training programs like Wisconsin Fast Forward have shrunk the skills gap in our state. This combination of smart, well-executed initiatives has led to hundreds of business expansions and thousands of new jobs. There are a lot of exciting success stories across the state from businesses like Johnson Health Tech. Co, Astro Industries, Jagemann Stamping Company and Viking Masek Global Packaging, where new investments are now being made here in Wisconsin rather than overseas or in our neighboring states.

It is an undeniable fact that our state's economy has improved from where it was during the previous administration's tenure, just ask the 462,000 people who now have high-wage, family supporting jobs averaging \$54,400 annually (24% higher salary than the average private sector worker).

Despite the negative rhetoric from WEDC critics, esteemed businesses have been recruited to open their doors in Wisconsin and exciting economic development projects have broken ground. An example is Amazon moving a distribution center to our state, which has generated over \$157 million in local spending and provided more than 1,200 jobs. Additionally, WEDC released an Economic Investment Analysis of the Water Technology District in Milwaukee that shows \$211.6 million in total development over the past five years since the area has become the global hub of water technology. Bold action and smart investments have put Wisconsin on a path of economic expansion and sustainability.

###