



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Representative Rob Swearingen
Senator Tom Tiffany**

January 11, 2019

**(608) 266-7141
(608) 266-2509**

Rep. Swearingen and Sen. Tiffany Release Statement on Drs. Foster and Smith Closure Announcement

Madison, WI – Representative Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) and Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Minocqua) released the following statement regarding an announcement by Petco that Drs. Foster and Smith pet supply company will close operations at its Rhineland location on February 12, 2019.

“We are disappointed to hear about Petco’s recent decision to cease operations at Drs. Foster and Smith pet supply company in Rhineland. The company has been a major employer in the community for years, and this loss is very unfortunate. Our primary concern now lies with the 289 employees and their families affected by this announcement.”

“We are working with city and state officials and stakeholders to help the community and the families who are impacted. We have been in contact with Governor Tony Evers, Mark Hogan, the Secretary and CEO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Stacey Johnson, the Executive Director of the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation, Daniel Guild, the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Rhineland, Chris Frederickson, City of Rhineland Mayor, and Caleb Frostman, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD). We must do all that we can to address this challenge facing area families and our entire community. A DWD Rapid Response Team has been organized and will begin its efforts to assist those affected with informational outreach and job search assistance during this difficult transition period.”

“For those employees affected, please feel free to contact our offices with any questions or concerns.”

###