



For Immediate Release

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Fake News: Governor's Surrogates Scramble to Obscure Foxconn Facts

MADISON – As more information continues to emerge casting doubt on Governor Walker's \$3 billion taxpayer funded package for the Taiwanese manufacturer Foxconn, the Governor has sent his cabinet members and other surrogates into damage control mode. The deal, which today was [confirmed by Politifact](#) to be the highest subsidy provided to a foreign company by a state, has been largely panned by economic experts, the press, and the public.

Last week, a memo from the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau showed that under the best-case scenario, it will take taxpayers at least until 2043 to recoup three billion dollars of their payments to the foreign corporation. Over the weekend, Governor Walker's Department of Administration Secretary Scott Neitzel and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's CEO Mark Hogan attempted to discredit the agency's memo to UpFront's Mike Gousha, saying that it did not account for the "indirect and induced jobs across the whole state" or a "whole new high tech manufacturing ecosystem". And yesterday, it was revealed through documents [obtained by the press through an open records request](#) that WEDC had been sitting on a new analysis showing Foxconn would create 4,000-10,000 fewer jobs than a previous projection.

"I don't know if Secretary Neitzel did not actually read the memo, or was purposely trying to deceive the public. But if he and the Governor are asking taxpayers for \$3 billion of their money, they should have their facts straight," said Rep. Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh), and member of the Legislature's budget-writing Joint Finance Committee. ***"I am assuming taxpayers also footed the bill for the Baker Tilly analysis, so why did it take an open records request for them to be able to read it? If this is as great a deal as the Governor and his surrogates are claiming, there should be nothing to hide."***

The LFB memo, mischaracterized by Secretary Neitzel, took Governor Walker and Foxconn's best-case, rosy scenario that 13,000 jobs might be created. The memo included the maximum direct jobs as well as indirect jobs including approximately 10,200 construction workers and equipment suppliers, nearly 6,000 indirect and induced jobs will be created during the construction period, and 22,000 indirect jobs by 2021.

"Even under LFB's best-case estimates for job creation, this deal should continue to raise serious questions for taxpayers, and they have a right to know the facts," said Rep. Hintz. ***"Wisconsin families also have a right to transparency on the far-reaching impacts this giveaway will have on every budget for the next 15 years, another bit of information that I have not seen the Governor and his surrogates eager to discuss. Governor Walker has already created a \$1 billion structural deficit in the next budget, and in order to afford this risky tax giveaway, deep cuts will likely need be made to important priorities like our public schools, the UW system, and local community infrastructure."***