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For Immediate Release
October 2, 2018

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Governor Walker and Senate Republicans Admit They Don't Have Support for Kimberly-Clark Corporate Welfare Bill

Pushing Vote Until After the Election Proves The Lack of Support In Wisconsin and in the Senate.

APPLETON – Today Governor Walker and Republican Legislators announce plans for an extraordinary session beginning with public hearings on the Kimberly-Clark Corporate Welfare Bill right after the November election.

“It is clear that Republican Leaders know that the K-C Welfare bill lacks public support and lacks support in the State Senate. While of course we'd like to keep businesses and plants in our state, Wisconsin will not be held hostage by profitable, international corporations with their hands out.”

“In 2011, Governor Walker and Republicans created the Manufacturing and Agriculture Tax Credit, which clearly worked for K-C bringing their state taxes down to next to nothing, paying only \$1 in state taxes since 2013. As a result of the Trump-Ryan tax plan, Kimberly-Clark saw their federal taxes drop, resulting in massive savings, with which their executives announced plans to lay off 5,000-5,550 employees and close up to 10 mills. As a result of their plan, 2 Wisconsin mills were on the chopping block, and no matter what the state does, they will go ahead and close the Neenah Nonwovens plant, eliminating 110 jobs. Even if this corporate welfare bill, AB 963, passes that plant will still close and 110 jobs will be gone.”

“The hardworking employees at the Fox Crossing plant have done everything in their power to keep this state of the art, and highly profitable plant up and running, approving significant concessions. While the employees working at the plant every day have given things up to keep the plant open, none of the top leadership at Kimberly-Clark have offered to give up anything to keep the plant open. Their CEO will continue to bring in more than \$13 million in total compensation, and other executives will bring in \$2.7 million, \$5.5 million, \$4.3 million, and \$5.2 million in 2017. In order to keep their multi-million dollar compensation and to boost profits for shareholders, Kimberly-Clark executives, after already receiving concessions from their employees now want Wisconsin taxpayers to give them a handout, to write them a check to keep the plant open.”

“The bottom line is that this corporate welfare package is a bad deal for Wisconsin and will lead to more and more companies threatening to leave the State unless state taxpayers cut them a check. When companies like that think that they are better or deserve more than the other businesses in our state, there is nothing that will stop them from taking our hard-earned tax dollars and leaving when it is more profitable for them or better for their shareholders.”

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