

WISCONSIN LEGISLAT

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

November 5, 2015

Mark Hogan, Chief Executive Officer Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation 201 W. Washington Avenue Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Hogan,

Yesterday, our community was devastated by the announcement that Kraft Heinz-Oscar Mayer would be closing all operations in the City of Madison. Over 1000 jobs will be lost. These are family supporting jobs that provide a living wage to hundreds of families in our community. The impact this will have on our local economy and Wisconsin's economy cannot be overstated. On the same day, Iowa was able to announce the building of a new, state of the art facility for the same company with a \$4.75 million dollar grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board. The purpose of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is supposed to be to strengthen and grow the economy, to work with business to retain and create jobs in Wisconsin.

Did you or any employee at WEDC have contact with Kraft Heinz-Oscar Mayer at any time over the potential closure of operations? Was there any discussion about trying to keep this business operating in Madison? Did you offer Kraft Heinz-Oscar Mayer any incentives? Were you even aware that this was a possibility? Did Governor Walker play a role in any discussions? Since the closure and relocation is scheduled to occur over a 24-month period, is WEDC continuing to communicate with Kraft Heinz-Oscar Mayer about this decision? What incentives are being offered to encourage them to reconsider their decision and retain all or part of the production facility and associated jobs here in Madison?

When an employer of this size chooses to leave a community, it has a significant impact. Our constituents deserve to know that the state of Wisconsin did everything it could to prevent this from happening. We look forward to hearing from you soon on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sen. Fred Risser

26th Senate District

Rep. Chris Taylor 76th Assembly District

Sen. Mark Miller 16th Senate District

Sen. Jon Erpenbach 27th Senate District

Rep. Gary Hebl 46th Senate District

Rep. Andy Jorgensen 43rd Assembly District

Rep. Robb Kahl 47th Assembly District

Sen. Janis Ringhand 15th Senate District

Cc: Governor Scott Walker

Rep. Melissa Sargent 48th Assembly District

Rep. Dianne Hesselbein 79th Assembly District

Rep. Sondy Pope 80th Assembly District

Rep. Dave Considine 81st Assembly District

Rep. Lisa Subeck 78th Assembly District

Rep. Terese Berceau 77th Assembly District

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