



WEDA Strongly Endorses Governor-elect Walker's Plan on Job Growth

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For Immediate Release

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The Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) strongly supports Governor-elect Walker's position on the restructuring of Wisconsin Department of Commerce and its transition to a public-private, single-purpose entity focused on jobs, driving business and community investments, and removing the regulatory functions of the agency.

WEDA and its partners released *Be Bold Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Competitiveness Study* on August 3rd. Since its release, the original Be Bold Wisconsin study has helped to shape much of the discussion about Wisconsin's economic development structure, including the recommendation to separate the regulatory and innovation functions away from the existing Wisconsin Department of Commerce. This study, conducted by independent third party consultants, proposed specific recommendations on how to best align organizations, systems, programs, and staff skill sets to maximize the state's investment in all areas of economic development.

We commend the Governor-Elect for reviewing these recommendations, studying models in other states and arriving at the proposal that he put forth today. This is a recommendation that truly recognizes economic development and job creation as Wisconsin's number one priority.

"WEDA applauds the Governor-Elect's position on restructuring the lead economic development organization in Wisconsin to be a single purpose corporation," said WEDA President Brian Doudna. "Wisconsin needs to produce dynamic growth that will raise per capita incomes, create jobs that will retain college graduates, and make Wisconsin and our businesses more competitive in the global economy. I and the over 450 members of WEDA look forward to helping Governor-Elect Walker reach the goal of 250,000 jobs. "

WEDA is a statewide organization of approximately 450 economic development professionals whose primary mission is to increase the effectiveness of individuals involved in the practice of economic development while advancing and promoting Wisconsin's economic development efforts.

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