



**SCOTT WALKER**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

P.O. Box 7863  
MADISON, WI 53707

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November 22, 2017

Thomas Nelson  
Outagamie County Executive  
410 S Walnut Ave  
Appleton, WI 54911

County Executive Nelson:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts regarding economic development in Northeast Wisconsin. I appreciate the opportunity to address this important issue.

As you may be aware, my administration has made, and will continue to make, substantial economic development investments in Northeast Wisconsin. Since 2011, Wisconsin agencies have invested more than \$375 million in “The New North” region, a group of 18 counties working to foster collaboration between the private and public sectors. These investments funded 462 projects which will support more than 48,000 jobs. In the past 12 months alone, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation supported a variety of projects in Northeast Wisconsin, including:

- \$20 million enterprise zone for U.S. Venture, a major distributor of energy, automotive, and lubricant products. This is part of a capital investment of \$57 million which will create 214 new jobs.
- \$830,000 in refundable performance based tax credits for Nestle Dreyer’s, a national producer of ice cream and frozen yogurt. This credit is part of an expansion that will create 100 new jobs.
- \$575,000 in refundable performance based tax credits for Cintas, a national provider of specialized services and products to businesses. These credits will support the creation of 60 new jobs.

These targeted investments combined with our reforms to reduce the tax and regulatory burden on individuals and employers are helping drive economic growth in Northeast Wisconsin and

across our state. Since December 2010, Outagamie County's unemployment rate fell from 7.0 percent to 2.6 percent in October 2017.

Overall, our economy is strong and continues to grow. When I took office, Wisconsin's unemployment rate was 8.1 percent. Today, it's down to 3.4 percent, near the all-time low, and more people are working than ever before in our state's history. Wages are up, too. Total private sector wages rose 3.9 percent from the second quarter of 2016 compared to the second quarter of 2017, according to the latest quarterly data published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data also show a 7.4 percent increase in construction wages and a 3.1 percent increase in manufacturing wages. This is more good news for Wisconsin's middle-class families.

We remain committed to supporting economic development in Northeast Wisconsin and across our state through targeted investments and continued government reform. Again, thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts about economic development opportunities in Northeast Wisconsin and Outagamie County. Please stay in touch as we work together to move Wisconsin forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Walker', written over a light gray circular watermark.

Scott Walker  
Governor