



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Rep. Sargent: Morally Reprehensible—  
WEDC & Foxconn Scheme Funneling Wisconsin Jobs & Taxpayer Money out of the State**

MADISON – State Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison), ranking Democratic Assembly member on the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, released the following condemnation of WEDC and the Foxconn scheme in response to the Legislative Audit Bureau’s findings in [Report 18-18](#):

“Since its inception in 2011, the Wisconsin Economic Development Commission (WEDC) has continued patterns of negligence, lack in transparency, and decisions that ultimately do not benefit Wisconsin workers. The report released by the Legislative Audit Bureau yesterday shows that once again WEDC has tried to pull the wool over our eyes as they funnel Wisconsin jobs and taxpayer money out of the state.

The most recent audit reveals that the tax credits that WEDC will grant to Foxconn will be allowed to be awarded to employees who do not live or work in Wisconsin. By doing so, WEDC is in direct violation of its contract as well as Wisconsin statutes. This is morally reprehensible, and not in the best interest of any Wisconsin taxpayer.

Not only is the Foxconn scheme not going to fulfill its promise of 13,000 jobs for Wisconsinites and instead outsource them to workers from other states and potentially even other countries, but it is now trying to provide tax credits— that come from the money of the hardworking people of Wisconsin— for the wages of employees that are not performing services in Wisconsin. Even more concerning, [WEDC will not confirm whether or not they have awarded tax credits for work not done in the state to other companies in the past.](#)

This report confirms what we have already known about WEDC from their almost 8 years of irresponsible practices— the Commission is a financial, ethical, and legal disaster, and we cannot afford to lose any more taxpayer dollars to these repeated failures. WEDC is an embarrassment to our state, and Wisconsin won’t stand for this outright incompetence and fraud.”

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*Melissa Sargent is a State Representative in the Wisconsin Assembly, representing the 48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which covers the east and north sides of the city of Madison and the village of Maple Bluff.*