

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement on Governor-Elect Evers' recent DFI appointment from Rose Oswald Poels,
president/CEO of the Wisconsin Bankers Association**

"WBA congratulates Kathy Blumenfeld on her appointment by Governor-Elect Tony Evers as the new Secretary, Department of Financial Institutions (DFI). We wish her well in her new role and look forward to working with her to support Wisconsin's communities and businesses.

A strong dual banking system benefits consumers, businesses, financial institutions, and regulators alike. In the last few years, we have seen several banks convert from a federal charter to a state charter. That's just one reason Wisconsin needs its DFI secretary to be an advocate for all Wisconsin financial institutions.

WBA thanks Jay Risch for his service as DFI Secretary. The strong leadership and commitment to service he has shown throughout his tenure have greatly benefited DFI as well as financial institutions and their customers in our state."

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The Wisconsin Bankers Association is the state's largest financial industry trade association, representing nearly 235 commercial banks and savings institutions, their nearly 2,300 branch offices and 23,000 employees.