

Sens. Darling and Nygren: Wisconsin Workforce and Innovation Network for Success to expand industry clusters in the state

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Madison, Wisconsin — In Wisconsin, many successful industries work together in clusters. Companies in agriculture, biotechnology, energy, dairy, biohealth, water technology, and plastics use this arrangement to lower costs and increase productivity and innovation.

On Thursday, State Senator Alberta Darling and State Representative Adam Neylon introduced the Wisconsin Workforce and Innovation Network for Success (WINS) Act which will encourage and expand industry clusters in our state.

“This is a model that works for Wisconsin,” Darling said, “Our state is already a great place to do business and will continue to lead through innovation and reform. Promoting industry clusters encourages collaboration and spearheads new ideas, new technology, and new jobs.”

An industry cluster is a geographic concentration of interconnected businesses, suppliers, and associated institutions in a particular field. The concentration of related businesses and academia increases productivity, access to information and skilled labor, cooperative research, and innovation through competition.

“The Wisconsin WINS Act uses an innovative funding model to develop Wisconsin’s economy, and help create new careers for Wisconsinites in emerging industries,”

Neylon said, “This new fund complements our existing economic development plan and reaffirms our commitment to making Wisconsin open for business.”

The Wisconsin WINS Act creates the Innovation Fund and Council to advise the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation on how to promote and expand the great work that is already taking place with clusters in our state. The fund is designed to promote innovation through competition, new product research and development, capacity building through industry cluster partnerships, and accelerate small businesses.

Senator Darling and Representative Neylon are currently seeking co-sponsors for the bill.