

Neenah Mayor Kaufert: Statement on Gov. Walker's announcement of support for increasing tax incentives for Kimberly-Clark

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"I want to Thank Governor Walker for reaching out to the hard working employees in the Fox Valley and looking to help find ways to keep Kimberly-Clark's two mills operating in the Neenah area. Last Wednesday the Governor returned my call within hours of the announcement and we discussed ways to help find ways to retain its operation here."

Neenah is the birthplace of Kimberly-Clark manufacturing facilities and ensuring the company continues to have a manufacturing presence in the community is vital to the region.

In addition, the supply chain impact also would have a serious negative to our region and community.

During our discussion I stressed to the Governor that job retention is as important to the region as bringing new companies in. The effort to attract Foxconn investment is noteworthy and a positive for Wisconsin. The State also stepped up a few years ago when Mercury Marine was considering moving operations. Neenah is home to many of the employees who make their living, buy homes and services and raise families here due to the quality of life here. The skilled trained

workforce is an asset to the company and the area.

The Governor's willingness to have Wisconsin Economic Development Council partner with the Fox Cities Regional Partnership and New North shows that he is concerned and listening to local leaders in searching out solutions for the company and workers.

My hope is a meeting can be held with the Governor's Office, State of Wisconsin officials and elected leaders, Kimberly-Clark management and labor representatives along with local government leaders to find ways to make this work.

I have also spoken with Village President Dale Youngquist, Representative Mike Rohrkaste and Senator Roger Roth about how we can collaborate to help this process.