

U.S. Sen. Baldwin: Tours Employee-Owned Business and Meets with Workers in Stevens Point

Posted on Thursday, Mar 29, 2018

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Sen. Baldwin visited Worzalla Publishing to highlight Made in Wisconsin economy and importance of empowering workers

STEVENS POINT, WI – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin visited Worzalla Publishing in Stevens Point today to meet with employees and company leadership, tour the facility and highlight her efforts to boost employee ownership and give workers a seat at the table of Wisconsin's businesses.

As a 100 percent employee-owned company, Worzalla Publishing demonstrates the positive impacts of empowering workers, building wealth and fostering community relations. At the company headquarters, Senator Baldwin was joined by Jim Fetherston, President and CEO of Worzalla Publishing, as well as employees and members of the leadership team of Worzalla Publishing.

"We must do more to reward hard work and raise incomes for working families," said Senator Baldwin. "Wisconsin has a rich history of employee-owned businesses. Here at Worzalla Publishing, you can see that tradition is alive and well – and should be supported. I'm proud to be encouraging more workers to establish and expand the employee-owned stakes in their companies. This is about supporting our workers and strengthening our Made in Wisconsin economy."

Senator Baldwin secured new provisions in the Fiscal Year 2018 spending bill requiring the Small Business Administration (SBA) to engage in education and

outreach, promote employee ownership structures and assist lenders in accessing SBA's employee ownership lending program.

Senator Baldwin's Worker Owned Wealth Act aims to promote employee ownership business models like Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) or worker cooperatives that give workers a seat at the table and help employee-owners build wealth. Employee ownership is also good for business. Companies like Worzalla Publishing that are employee-owned are more likely to increase productivity and become more resilient to market downturns.

Senator Baldwin's Worker Owned Wealth Act has garnered support from companies in Wisconsin and advocates across the country.