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Rep. Christine Sinicki 608.266.8588

\$15 and a Union at Foxconn

Rep. Sinicki and Rep. Wachs Draft Amendments to Ensure Good Jobs at Foxconn

MADISON – Rep. Christine Sinicki (D-Milwaukee) and Rep. Dana Wachs (D-Eau Claire) have announced amendments to Gov. Walker's Foxconn legislation. The measures seek to ensure good jobs at Foxconn, instead of relying on promises of future job conditions. The amendments establish job quality standards for Foxconn's workers and workers at Foxconn's suppliers and contractors.

The amendments require a minimum \$15/hour minimum wage and workers' ability to organize themselves without fear of reprisal. They also require Foxconn to negotiate a "Good Jobs Agreement" substantially similar to that arrived at with the owners of the Milwaukee Bucks for their new arena.

As enabling legislation for the Arena Development Zone moved forward at the state and local levels, the Bucks owners and the Alliance for Good Jobs, a coalition of labor and community organizations, negotiated a private agreement that covered post-construction employment with a \$15 wage floor, union organizing rights, local hire provisions, and a community hiring hall.

"If it's good enough for the Bucks, it's good enough for Foxconn." Rep. Sinicki stated. "Promises of 'average wages' at Foxconn won't pay workers' mortgages or grocery bills. Good union jobs with a base \$15 wage will allow workers to make a decent, basic living," she added. "Whether the bill itself outlines these standards or Foxconn negotiates a Good Jobs Agreement, the result must be family-supporting jobs.

Rep. Wachs joined Rep. Sinicki, saying "For it to truly be good deal with Foxconn, the state needs to ensure it's a good deal for the people who work there." He continued, "Working people built our middle class economy with unions that delivered living-wage jobs. If this deal helps rebuild our middle class, it will be because we insisted right out of the gate that Foxconn jobs must be good-paying, union jobs."

Rep. Wachs referred to the Bucks deal as the new gold standard for this kind of agreement: "When the Bucks came to policy-makers, they didn't just promise good jobs, they put their commitment into writing for a \$15 base wage, union rights, and local hiring. With \$3 billion at stake, we should require the same of Foxconn."

Sinicki and Wachs will circulate the amendments among their Assembly colleagues for their signatures, as well.