



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WEDC Audit is Déjà Vu to Wisconsinites

MADISON – Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison), ranking Democratic Assembly member on the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, released the following statement to express her deepest concern and disappointment at the repeated shortcomings by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) as demonstrated in the Legislative Audit Bureau’s (LAB) [Report 19-6](#):

“The continued failures by WEDC demonstrated in this report, including trouble executing contracts, verifying job numbers, and complying with state statutes, is dreaded déjà vu for the people of Wisconsin. Since its inception, WEDC has repeatedly let down Wisconsinites by its inability to show taxpayers what we as a state are getting for these so called ‘investments’. [Report 13-7](#), [Report 14-11](#), [Report 15-3](#), [Report 17-9](#), [Report 18-8](#), and now [Report 19-6](#) – again and again audits by the non-partisan LAB have revealed substantial and concerning issues, yet WEDC continues to be insubordinate and display an utter lack of accountability to our state.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation’s very duty is to support job creation and business development that benefits communities and hardworking Wisconsinites. However, as [Report 19-6 shows](#), WEDC has instead been busy awarding tax credits to non-Wisconsin residents who were not performing services in Wisconsin, closing awards that involved job creation and retention while not collecting repayments from loan or tax credit recipients, falling short on contractually required job creation, and continuing to demonstrate non-compliance with state statutes.

The negligent, irresponsible, and defiant attitude of WEDC does not benefit Wisconsin workers or economic development in our state. Further adding insult to injury, in the lame duck session in December the Republican controlled legislature stripped away Governor Evers’ ability to take action by [restricting him from replacing WEDC’s CEO until September 2019](#).

As a state legislator and member of the Audit Committee I am committed to my duty to represent hardworking Wisconsinites and to make their lives better. We as a state cannot afford to continue to see these repeated failures, and we will not stand for this cycle to continue any longer.”

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*Melissa Sargent is a State Representative in the Wisconsin Assembly, representing the 48th Assembly District, which covers the east and north sides of the city of Madison and the village of Maple Bluff*