

STATE REPRESENTATIVE Katrina Shankland

71st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Media Release

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Contact: Rep. Katrina Shankland office: (608) 267-9649

Department of Revenue Secretary Barca and Representative Shankland Remark on Business and Economic Development Roundtable

STEVENS POINT – Today, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) welcomed Department of Revenue (DOR) Secretary Peter Barca to Stevens Point for a business and economic development roundtable discussion at the Portage County Business Council. Attendees included DOR leaders and economists, members of local government, and leaders from area businesses and regional economic development organizations. The discussion was a part of DOR's new program to bolster and engage Wisconsin's small business community: <u>Business Development and Government Relations (BDGR)</u>.

Rep. Shankland issued the following statement following the discussion:

"I'm thankful that Secretary Barca came to Stevens Point to discuss business and economic development with so many stellar local business leaders and stakeholders. Hosting conversations like these at every level about how to keep our statewide economy growing while ensuring that we invest in what works for our local communities shows that the Evers administration is listening. The BDGR initiative at DOR is a true testament to the Evers administration's commitment to ensuring that our state's new and growing businesses are supported and have access to what they need to thrive. I am thrilled to see them going the extra mile to connect businesses to resources and give them a forum through which to voice policy suggestions and connect with not only the state's economists, but with the Secretary himself."

Secretary Barca added, "It's great to kick off our Regional Wisconsin Economic and Business (WEB) roundtable meetings here in central Wisconsin, the heart of our state. Today's WEB roundtable was a terrific opportunity for folks from both the private and public sectors to come together and openly discuss the issues impacting our economy. The Department of Revenue captures and shares a tremendous amount of data that can be useful to our economic development community. We are in a unique position to help bolster and assist Wisconsin businesses, which is why we are traveling to take this important information to our regional partners throughout the state. Additionally, we are here to learn what more we can do to support the growth of businesses, and thereby growing our economy. Everything we heard at today's roundtable discussion will help inform the decisions we make as a department to keep Wisconsin's economy growing in every corner of the state."

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