

Business Leaders to Wisconsin Legislators WE NEED MORE ENGINEERS

CEOs Call for Urgent Action on New UW-Madison College of Engineering Building

To the Wisconsin State Legislature:

As Wisconsin employers, we are deeply disappointed by the decision of the Joint Finance Committee to not include the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Engineering expansion in the 2023-25 capital budget. The UW-Madison College of Engineering has a significant impact on the state and its workforce. These engineering graduates are vital to the state's economic development needs, but we need more of them to meet the increasing demand from our companies. In the past five years, 1,235 graduates have accepted engineering employment in Wisconsin. In the last year alone, 445 employers recruited engineers through the College of Engineering career fairs, where the number of job offerings far outnumber available students.

A new, state-of-the-art building will provide the college the space needed to educate more engineering students and grow its undergraduate population by 1,000 students. This expansion will enable the university to serve more Wisconsin students and employers and will assist in the recruitment and retention of top-tier faculty members, sustaining its excellence in research and education.

We are asking the state to enumerate this important project during this legislative session. Of the \$347 million total project cost, UW-Madison has committed to raising \$150 million from private gifts and grants. We understand that more than \$100 million in gifts has already been pledged from donors, contingent on state support of the project this session. Delaying this project to the next state budget would increase the total cost to approximately \$400 million, with no guarantee that donor funds will still be available.

Please help us make sure that the state's top engineering program remains competitive for years to come by passing legislation to construct this much-needed new building.

Dan Ariens, Ariens

Chris Osborn, Amcor

Bill Westrate, American Family Insurance

Nick Rinaldi, Blue Line Battery, Inc.

Michael Gratz, Boyle Fredrickson

Bradley Brown, Brownfield Environmental Engineering

Sean Cleary, Cleary Holdings, Inc.

Ted Hansen, Convergen Energy

Troy Berg, Dane Manufacturing & Dantherm Cooling

Tyler Gould, Eaton

Judy Faulkner, Epic Systems

Ken Pavett, Flexografix

Patrick Sullivan, Flux XII

Eric Broten, Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce

John Schiessel, Generac

Betsy Metzger, Glenroy

John Kissinger, GRAEF

Duncan Furrh, Greenlight Insurance Agency

Eric Senn, Johnson Controls

Will Hsu, Hsu's Ginseng Enterprises, Inc.

Wendy Harris, Intelligent Water Solutions

Laura Kohler, Kohler

Andy Platz, Mead & Hunt

Jeff Ihnen, Michaels Energy

Chuck Romenesko, Miller Electric Mfg

Steven Richman, Milwaukee Tool

Dan Johnson, Mortenson

Jake Gavin, MTERA

James Harvey, NorthStar

John Gosling, NTD

John Pfeiffer, Oshkosh

Todd Kelsey, Plexus

Christopher Haag, Radius Packaging

Ashok Menon, Radom Corporation

Kieran Furlong, Realta Fusion

Jenny Nieuwenhuis, Hardel REI Engineering

Mark Marchi, Rice Engineering, Inc.

Michael Cook, Rockwell Automation

Ben Ryan, Ryan Incorporated Central

Steve Malchow, Trek

Sean Rezin, USEMCO, Inc.

Kurt Bauer, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Invest in Wisconsin's Workforce

Act Now on a New UW-Madison College of Engineering Building

Contact Your
Legislator

