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 outnumbers 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, Doyle Friedrickson
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 Pavrett, Flexografix
Patrick Sullivan, FluxXII
Eric Broten, Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce
John Schiessel, Generac
Betsy Metzger, Glenroy
John Kissinger, GRAEF
Duncan Furth, Greenlight Insurance Agency
Eric Senn, Johnson Controls
Will Hou, Hu’s Ginseng Enterprises, Inc.
Wendy Harris, Intelligent Water Solutions

Laura Kohler, Kohler
Andy Pfatzi, 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, Reata Fusion
Jenny Nieuwenhuis, Hardel RD 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

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Contact Your Legislator

Paid for by the Wisconsin Alumni Association