



# Washington DC Visit 2014

## What We Said

- **Thank you** for the federal grant that will assist the La Crosse Regional Airport in either attracting a new airline or to develop a direct flight to either Dallas or Denver.
- **eCommerce** puts our local businesses at a disadvantage when internet-only sellers and online hotel bookings do not collect hotel or sales tax. We encourage eFairness. *What we heard:* small businesses may not have the resources to handle the collection of sales tax. A bill containing a waiver based on employee size is more likely to pass.
- **The Affordable Care Act** – we encouraged a simplified formula, particularly with seasonal employees and adjunct faculty. *What we heard:* there is discussion on Capitol Hill of adjusting the number of hours at which point employees would be considered full-time.
- **Some Tax Credits should be continued** including those for Research & Development. *What we heard:* Some are supportive. Others perceive lost revenue by continuing these credits.
- **Coal Ash** reuse is something Wisconsin does well. Proposals to make coal ash hazardous will be detrimental to areas where we have found coal ash to be an acceptable use.
- **Change in Railroad Service** was encouraged including: **Greater rail-safety standards** given the increase of greater volumes of oil traveling via rail; **Rail car access:** the demand on cars for oil left few available for the coal, leaving our supply as low as one week.
- **Gainful Employment** will have detrimental effects on our certificate degrees because of the formula that looks at their debt in relation to their earning potential.
  - **Persons with Disabilities:** any minimum wage increases should continue to exempt individuals with disabilities because paying them equally with those without disabilities will make them unemployable because there is lower productivity.

## Chamber Delegation

- Joan Mueller (Mayo Clinic Health System – La Crosse)
- Scott Mooney (McKesson Pharmaceutical)
- Sue Kolve (The Salon Professional Academy)
- Michael Richards (Gundersen Health System)
- Teri Wildt (Mayo Clinic Health System – La Crosse)
- Mary Jo Werner (Wipfli LLP)
- Vicki Markussen (La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce)

## Who We Met With

- Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI),  
Chief of Staff Bill Murat & Policy  
Director Ken Reidy
- Senator Ron Johnson (WI) & Senior  
Legislative Assistant Tomas C. Petri
- Rep. Ron Kind (WI) and Legislative  
Assistant Natalie Mamerow
- Rep. Paul Ryan's (WI) Legislative  
Director Allison Steil
- Rep. Bruce Braley's (IA) Legislative  
Assistant Akshai Datta
- Rep. Tim Walz's (MN) Legislative  
Aide Randolph Briley
- Governor Walker's (WI) Director of  
Federal Relations Wendy Riemann