



MADISON REGION
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

**MADISON REGION ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
RESOLUTION ON UNIVERSITY FUNDING**

Whereas, the University of Wisconsin System, led by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is one of our state's most treasured and nationally distinctive assets, and

Whereas, in addition to UW-Madison and UW-Whitewater, our region also has two-year institutions in Janesville and Baraboo which do an outstanding job of educating their local population and preparing students to move to a four-year degree, and

Whereas, the University of Wisconsin-Madison is regularly treated by the Madison Region Economic Partnership as the region's biggest competitive advantage because of its research prowess and its impact on the quality of our workforce, and

Whereas, the University of Wisconsin-Madison is an economic engine that contributes substantially to the region and the state through the creation and support of 128,000 jobs, the generation of \$600 million in tax revenue and a total economic impact on the state of Wisconsin of \$12.4 billion, and

Whereas, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is home to the largest graduate business program in the state and its graduates in all disciplines enjoy a job placement rate of 85%, with 82% of them staying in Wisconsin, and

Whereas, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater also houses one of the state's premiere business incubators which is a partner to MadREP, and

Whereas, the region and the state rely on the University System to educate our future workforce, innovate with the private sector, transfer technology for commercialization, foster the creation of new jobs, and help launch new companies into the global economy, and

Whereas, Governor Scott Walker has proposed cutting Wisconsin's investment in the University System by more than \$300 million with more than a quarter of that coming from UW-Madison, and

Whereas, such a budget reduction will negatively impact the University System's research enterprise and its impact on the region's economy, and

Whereas, the region's brand and ability to retain and attract businesses and workforce could suffer as a result of further retrenchment,

Now, therefore, the Board of Directors of the Madison Region Economic Partnership does hereby urge the Governor and the Legislature to reduce the level of budget cuts to the UW-System and pass a 2015-17 biennial budget which will maintain the excellence and impact of our local Universities for the benefit of the people of the State of Wisconsin.

Signed and dated this 18th of March, 2015

Bill White, Chairman

John Larsen, Secretary

Paul Jadin, President