



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

## Testimony on Senate Bill 139

Thank you committee members for hearing Senate Bill 139 (SB 139) today. This bill makes changes to the Prison Industries Board in hopes of connecting inmates that participate in the Badger State Industries system with employment opportunities upon release.

Generally, the Prison Industries Board is tasked with overseeing and reviewing the operations of Wisconsin's prison industries. At the beginning of this legislative session, our committee took action on an appointment to this board. After hearing about the important role they play in helping former inmates find and retain employment, Senator Taylor suggested the board should also include members that would help fill market needs. This bill follows up on our committee discussion to do just that.

Under current law, the board is comprised of nine members representing the following:

- Department of Corrections
- Technical college system
- Department of Administration
- Three members from private labor organizations
- Three members from private businesses

Senate Bill 139 would add a representative from the Department of Workforce Development and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, providing the board with additional workforce insight.

These changes will help strengthen our Badger State Industries system and provide additional opportunities former inmates to become productive participants in our economy. I encourage you to support its passage.

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