

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

I am pleased to offer my strong support for North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's (NCWRPC) application for Local Technical Assistance Program funding through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

For over 100 years, Wausau Paper Company produced a quality product and provided hundreds of Wisconsinites in Brokaw with good jobs. However, activist hedge funds on Wall Street purchased large stakes in the company and demanded short-term profits at the expense of long-term investment. These changes led to the closure of all Wausau Paper mills in Wisconsin and the subsequent near-bankruptcy of the town of Brokaw, WI. More than 450 employees were laid off. This event led to the overall financial hardship for Brokaw and its residents.

If awarded, Technical Assistance funding will be used to prepare an economic recovery and redevelopment plan for the Village of Brokaw. Working with strategic partners and surrounding communities of the Village of Maine and the Town of Texas, the planning process will assess challenges and identify opportunities for economic growth in the area. This planning effort will help bring economic stability and job creation. The U.S. Economic Development Administration's participation is critical to the success of this combined community effort.

I support projects that support Wisconsin's middle class and our 'Made in Wisconsin' economy. For this reason I respectfully request that you give full and fair consideration to North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's application. Please keep Jessica Sielaff in my Madison office updated on the progress of this application and contact her should you have further questions or concerns. She may be reached at 30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 700, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, by phone at 608-264-5338, or by email at [projects\\_grants@baldwin.senate.gov](mailto:projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov).

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator