Demand Basic Accountability at Gov. Walker's Dysfunctional Jobs Agency

Written by Wisconsin Assembly, Laura Smith Wednesday, 10 June 2015 10:19 - Last Updated Wednesday, 10 June 2015 11:15



Republicans block measure by Assembly Democrats to require the WEDC to provide immediate answers to lawmakers and taxpayers regarding its risky loan activities, again selling out Wisconsin taxpayers to support Scott Walker's personal presidential ambitions.

MADISON - Assembly Democrats voted on Tuesday to require that Gov. Walker's Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) provide immediate answers to lawmakers and taxpayers regarding its risky loan activities. Assembly Republicans voted to deny the demand for WEDC to provide information to the legislature to avoid further fraud and abuse in its lending activities, despite bombshell media reports and a scathing nonpartisan audit revealing unsecured loans.



"While Gov. Walker misleads the public with his rhetoric that his jobs agency is providing 'unfettered' access to WEDC staff and information, WEDC continues to stonewall board members and legislators from receiving basic information about their risky loans," Assembly Democratic Leader Rep. **Peter Barca** (D-Kenosha) said. "Our taxpayers deserve answers. It is irresponsible to not hold WEDC accountable for its loan portfolio and record-keeping activities."

The resolution would have required the governor and WEDC to report to the legislature within seven days to provide full records and documentation on any unsecured loans, loans issued over concerns of underwriters, or loans where underwriting documentation is missing or was not complete.

Recent media <u>reports</u> that WEDC may have granted at least one loan – totaling \$500,000 – as a favor to one of the governor's campaign contributors, despite never even conducting a staff review of the loan recipient.

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