

City Leaders release statements regarding Oscar Mayer plant in Madison closing:

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin statement:

As Mayor of Madison, first and foremost my thoughts and concern are with the 1,000 workers who will be losing their jobs in the time span of the next 24 months. These men and women have dedicated their lives to this company, and they and their families are of the utmost concern to me. They are the heart and soul of the Northside.

Oscar Mayer has been part of Madison's Northside for over 100 years and we had hoped that it would continue to be part of the fabric of our community for 100 more. Since that is not to be, the City is committed to working with the State Department of Workforce Development and the Workforce Development Board of South-Central Wisconsin to assist these workers in retraining and placement in their next employment opportunity.

Office of Governor Scott Walker statement:

Wisconsin's economy is growing and moving in the right direction. Our unemployment rate is 4.3 percent, the lowest it's been since April 2001, and our labor force participation rate is 5 points higher than the national level.

We will work with local officials and our Department of Workforce Development to connect affected workers with other potential employers as well as a variety of services that include job training and job search assistance.

Senator Fred Risser and Representative Chris Taylor statement:

Senator Fred Risser (D-Madison) and Representative Chris Taylor (D-Madison) issued the following statement regarding today's announcement that Kraft Foods is closing the Oscar Mayer plant in Madison.

"The decision announced today by Kraft Foods to close Madison's Oscar Mayer plant and lay off over 1,000 employees is gut wrenching. It is a sad day in Madison and our hearts go out to Oscar Mayer's employees and their families. Oscar Mayer has been part of our city's fabric for over 100 years."

"We have already spoken to Mayor Soglin's office and Governor Walker's office about keeping this company here and saving these jobs. We will do everything we can to get workers the information and resources they need during this incredibly challenging time. If you or your family are affected by this plant closure, do not hesitate to contact our offices."

Representative Peter Barca Statement:

Assembly Democratic Leader Peter Barca (D-Kenosha) released the following statement today on the announcement that Oscar Mayer will be closing its Madison plant, resulting in the layoffs of more than 1,000 workers:

"I am deeply saddened that yet another business is shuttering its doors in Wisconsin and my thoughts are with all the workers and families affected.

"The closure of Oscar Meyer accentuates the urgent need for action on jobs.

"I would hope that Republicans would reverse course and call for an extraordinary session to find solutions to Wisconsin's jobs and lagging middle class wage crisis instead of calling for an extraordinary session to pad their campaign coffers by allowing more secretive money in politics, more corporate influence in our government and more opportunities for corruption. It is clear that the priorities of Wisconsin Republicans are misplaced and focused on feathering their own nests instead of the major problems facing our state.

"I am also urging WEDC to immediately discuss Oscar Meyer by adding this to our board agenda next week.

Representative Lisa Subeck statement:

Representative Lisa Subeck (D-Madison) released the following statement in response to Oscar Mayer announcing they will be closing their Madison's Oscar Mayer plant.

"I am sad and disappointed to hear the news of Oscar Mayer closing their Madison plant. This closure will impact the entire Madison community.

I know I have many constituents who will be impacted by this closure. I will be working with City officials, other legislators and stakeholders to assist those who will be impacted.”

Subeck also commented on the state’s overall business climate.

“The corporate tax breaks pushed by Republicans are not working, and WEDC is failing to keep jobs in our state. Today, we feel the results of Republican failures as we suffer major job losses in manufacturing in Wisconsin.

Assembly Republicans have continually refused to even consider Democratic bills to boost the economy and grow the middle class through working training and retraining programs, direct tax relief to the middle class, and initiatives to support entrepreneurship.”

State Senator Jon Erpenbach statement:

“I am devastated for the hard working men and women of the greater Madison area that have given their professional lives to Oscar Meyer. The effect of this plant closing on the people and economy of Dane County will be felt for years to come. With the loss of 1,000 jobs, both laborer and management, the mass layoff number for Wisconsin this year is abysmal.”

“At the end of last week, Wisconsin had 9,341 workers affected by mass layoffs and plant closings; add 1,000 more. At this pace we may double the number of mass layoffs and plant closings from 2014. These job losses are a direct result of the failed leadership of Governor Walker and the Republican Legislature who have followed him blindly on this road to economic ruin. We will never, ever grow the economy with the failed policies of Governor Walker of cutting wages for workers and giving tax breaks to rich companies and people.”

Congressman Mark Pocan statement:

U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) released the following statement after Oscar Mayer announced it was closing the company’s plant and corporate headquarters resulting in the loss hundreds of jobs:

“This is a devastating blow for the Oscar Mayer workers, their families and our local economy. Oscar Mayer was a source of good paying jobs and a valuable asset to Dane County. I am deeply concerned for the hundreds of employees and their families who have just found out they can no longer expect to come to work at this facility as they have for many years now.

“Since Heinz took over Kraft and Oscar Mayer, their commitment to the corporate bottom line over the interests of individual workers and the communities they live in has, unfortunately, been repeated across the country. Given the company’s indication that they will instead expand operations elsewhere in North America, my office is prepared to assist should workers qualify for trade adjustment assistance. I will work with state and local officials to provide necessary assistance to the workers who have just endured this terrible loss.”

Senator Mark Miller statement:

“Kraft Heinz – Oscar Mayer closing their plant in Madison is a crushing loss to our community and our great state. Oscar Mayer has been a fixture in our community for over 100 years. Losing 1000+ jobs in the Madison area is devastating to our economy. My thoughts are with the employees and their families who come home today facing an uncertain future. It is my hope they will be able to continue to make Madison their home and use the resources available in Dane County for job retraining.”