



September 24, 2018

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 7863  
Madison, WI 53707

Re: Funding the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building

Dear Governor Walker,

The Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC), in collaboration with more than 125 private sector investors, partners, and other economic development stakeholders, markets the Chippewa County and the Chippewa Valley as the place to do business in Wisconsin, assists businesses in their growth strategies, and fosters the growth of rural communities across the area.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate CCEDC's support for and to urge and encourage you and all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature to fund the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building in the 2019-21 state budget. The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building project has been approved and supported by the UW System Board of Regents and at our Board of Directors meeting on the September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the CCEDC confirmed its support for this necessary project.

For the Chippewa Valley to remain vibrant and competitive economically, it is essential that the university's talented STEM and pre-professional health sciences students have the opportunity to conduct collaborative research alongside industry leaders in a modern state-of-the-art facility such as planned by the UW-Eau Claire Science and Health Sciences building project. The importance of funding a new facility such as this, with room for flexible, interdisciplinary research that supports our area's burgeoning high-tech and healthcare industries, cannot be over emphasized.

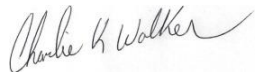
In addition, allocating appropriate financial resources for the UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building project in the 2019-21 state budget will have a major impact on northwestern Wisconsin's ability to attract and retain talent in STEM fields. This action will also increase the state's capacity for pre-professional science and health sciences education to address our region's critical shortages in rural healthcare talent and innovation.

Further, we request and stress it is vital that this UW-Eau Claire project be approved for \$109 million in the 2019-21 budget and \$147 million in advanced enumeration for the 2021-23 state budget. This will ensure that a modern state of the art new facility is rapidly designed and

constructed seamlessly to ensure compatibility of with existing infrastructure and campus facilities.

There is no doubt that the UW System is an economic engine for the state of Wisconsin, and the stability and prosperity of the Chippewa Valley depends heavily on UW-Eau Claire's ability to attract and retain top faculty and student talent to the region. Hence, the UW-Eau Claire Science and Health Sciences building project has our enthusiastic and resolute support.

Sincerely,



Charlie Walker  
President/CEO  
Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation

Cc: Chancellor James C. Schmidt  
Wisconsin Senate President Hon. Roger Roth  
Wisconsin Assemble Speaker Hon. Robin Vos  
Wisconsin Senator Alberta Darling, Chair of Senate Committee on Universities and  
Technical Colleges  
Wisconsin Senator Kathleen Vinehout  
Wisconsin Senator Terry Moulton  
Wisconsin Representative David Murphy, Chair of the Committee on Colleges and  
Universities  
Wisconsin Representative Kathleen Bernier  
Wisconsin Representative Warren Petryk  
Wisconsin Representative Rob Summerfield  
Wisconsin Representative Dana Wachs