



Contact: Michael Welsh  
608-234-2940; or mwelsh@weda.org

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## **Rep. Nancy VanderMeer Receives WEDA's Champion of Economic Development Legislative Award**

**Madison, WI** – The Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) recently presented State Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) with the organization's 2022 "Champion of Economic Development" award for her leadership on legislative initiatives to drive economic growth and prosperity in Wisconsin. The award presentation, which was attended by local economic development professionals and business representatives, took place at Franklin Coffee House in Sparta, WI.

"The WEDA membership is extremely thankful for Representative VanderMeer's continued leadership on legislation to address Wisconsin's top economic challenges and ultimately drive growth in central Wisconsin and across the state," said Michael Welsh, WEDA V.P. of Legislative Affairs. "We appreciate her deep understanding of economic development issues, as well as her commitment during the 2021-22 session to champion legislation to help alleviate the state's workforce shortage crisis and provide communities with key economic development tools."

The "Champion of Economic Development" award is presented at the end of each legislative session to state lawmakers who demonstrate extraordinary support for important economic development policies. This year WEDA is presenting the award to 20 state lawmakers who exhibited an exceptional commitment to growing Wisconsin's economy based on several factors, including voting record, sponsorship of legislation, and responsiveness to critical economic development issues.

Rep. VanderMeer earned the "Champion of Economic Development" designation for her work to support legislative solutions to some of the largest challenges facing Wisconsin communities, including a veterans talent attraction bill to address the state's growing labor shortage and a proposal to encourage the redevelopment of local blighted properties. She was also a strong advocate for rural broadband expansion and workforce housing development.

VanderMeer, who was first elected to the Wisconsin Assembly in 2014, represents the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Wood, and Portage Counties, including the Cities of Tomah and Sparta. She serves as the Chair of the Assembly Rural Development Committee and sits on the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee and the Tourism Committee.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Association, founded in 1975, is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to growing Wisconsin's economy. Driven by the needs of our members, we represent the economic development interests of both the private and public sectors through professional development, best practices, and advocacy.

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