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***State Republican cheerleaders for $3 billion payoff to Foxconn for new plant call Hansen's caution "beyond appalling" and "insane." Anyone concerned about Wisconsin taxpayers should be urging caution says Hansen.***

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GREEN BAY - Yesterday, on these pages , State Senator **Dave Hansen** (D-Green Bay) said that Wisconsin should be extremely cautious in any use of taxpayer dollars to lure Foxxconn to the state citing concerns that new technologies could eliminate any promised jobs.

Hansen was referring, of course, to the much ballyhooed announcement in Washington that Taiwanese technology giant Foxconn, maker of the LCD displays on iPhones among other things, planned to build a factory in southeastern Wisconsin creating something like 3,000 to 13,000 jobs. On top of that, the average pay for jobs would be around $54,000 a year.

Republicans from President Donald Trump to Governor Scott Walker were quick to claim it as one of the greatest deals of the century and one that would put "rust belt" Wisconsin back on the manufacturing map. Walker especially wanted the glory of landing a big one to justify his rather lackluster record on job creation. He has still not reached, well into his second term, his campaign promise to create 250,000 new jobs by the end of his first.

Industry observers were more skeptical of the Taiwanese company, highlighting Foxconn's poor record on worker rights, its goal of replacing workers with robots, and a history of grand promises that don't always play out.

Another bump in the road was that Foxconn wants a massive $3 billion in state tax breaks to build it's new plant here. The Washington Post was quick to report that the "Foxconn deal to build massive factory in Wisconsin could cost the state $230,700 per worker".

In this environment, any "legislator thinking of supporting what could be a $3 billion incentive package should be very wary," said Hansen. "To do otherwise would be a serious case of legislative malpractice."

Simple good sense in stewardship of our tax dollars one would think. But not so for four Republican lawmakers from northeast Wisconsin who called Hansen's concerns that Foxconn could replace jobs at the plant with robots after taking the money "beyond appalling" and "insane."

As reported by the Post, "One need look no further than the shipyards and foundries in Marinette or the paper manufacturers scattered throughout the area to see that our area's economy thrives on manufacturing," said state Rep. **John Nygren**, co-chair of the Legislature's budget committee. Rep. **David Steffen**, of Green Bay, said there will be countless economic benefits across the state. "To think that someone would actively cheer against this type of economic growth is insane," Steffen said.