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More than 60 Wis. Business Leaders, including the Bucks, Join Forces to Oppose Anti-Voter Bills

WISCONSIN – More than 60 business leaders in Wisconsin, including the Milwaukee Bucks, have signed an open letter opposing the anti-voter bills in the Legislature.

“We are Wisconsin business leaders, representing companies across the state, and we condemn the efforts of the state legislators who are proposing bills attacking our freedom to vote,” the statement reads. “Wisconsin state legislators have introduced a set of bills that would create steep barriers to voting, particularly targeting voters with disabilities, elderly voters, and Black and brown communities. We are calling on state elected officials to oppose these bills.”

Signatories include:

- Arvind Gopalratnam, vice president of corporate social responsibility for the Milwaukee Bucks
- Cory Nettles, president, Generation Growth Capital, Milwaukee
- Tom and John Florsheim, CEO and COO of the Weyco Group in Glendale
- Nelson Soler, president, Latino Chamber of Commerce of Southeastern Wis.
- Paul Miller, partner, Colectivo Coffee in Milwaukee and Madison
- Patrick DePula, chef and owner of Salvatore’s Tomato Pies in Dane County
- Bill and Michelle Tressler, co-owners, Hinterland Brewery in Green Bay
- Duane Greuel, owner, Casimir Gold maple syrup in Stevens Point

“The business community should show leadership on this issue,” says John Florsheim, the chief operating officer of the Weyco Group in Milwaukee. “For the economy to run well, we want people to believe there’s fairness in the process. But when you set up barriers to the exercise of our basic right to vote, you undermine people’s faith in the system.”

“Recently passed legislation by the Wisconsin Senate would not only limit ballot dropboxes, it would also create additional barriers for absentee voters to make their voices heard,” said Nelson Soler, President of Latino Chamber of Commerce of Southeastern Wisconsin “The Latino community in Wisconsin already faces challenges in voting due to language barriers, and this legislation would make it even harder for Latino Wisconsinites to vote, and would effectively remove thousands of Latino people from being heard and represented in Wisconsin.”

“Many of us in the Wisconsin business community are appalled by these bills,” says Patrick DePula, chef and owner of Salvatore’s Tomato Pies. “I’m proud to join with other concerned businesspeople to say they’re absolutely wrong. If we want to attract a talented workforce in Wisconsin, we need to project a better image for our state. I urge other businesspeople in

Wisconsin to join us." DePula, incidentally closed all his restaurants on Election Day and paid his staff to volunteer at the polls.

The Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition helped organize this effort. The coalition consists of more than 20 pro-voter organizations in Wisconsin, including Disability Rights Wisconsin, Wisconsin Conservation Voters, Leadership Now Project, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Main Street Alliance, Souls to the Polls, Wisconsin Conservation Voices, the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice.

Business leaders can sign on to the statement here:

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/joint-statement-wisconsin-business-community-calling-wisconsin-elected-officials-protect-our-freedom>

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