

# Walker sells Wisconsin

Governor tours Silver Spring Foods, touts jobs plans



Staff photos by Shane Opatz

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker toured Silver Spring Foods on Thursday during a visit to Eau Claire. Touting legislation aimed at creating jobs, he made earlier stops in De Pere and Wausau. To view more photos go to [LeaderTelegramPhotos.com](http://LeaderTelegramPhotos.com). For a video go to [LeaderTelegram.com](http://LeaderTelegram.com), click on "Multimedia" and then "Videos."



Walker spoke with nearly a dozen Silver Spring Foods employees Thursday during a visit to the company's headquarters, 2424 Alpine Road, on the city's far northwest side.

By Liam Marlaire  
Leader-Telegram staff

Job creation was the core message Thursday during Gov. Scott Walker's first visit to the Chippewa Valley since taking office Jan. 3.

Walker toured the headquarters of Silver Spring Foods in Eau Claire, which produces horseradish and related products, before addressing the media and a small group of Silver Spring employees. He touted measures such as the five drafts of bills released last week that address business tax incentives and health savings accounts.

"I love selling Wisconsin; I love cheerleading for Wisconsin," Walker said.

"We need to tell more stories like Silver Spring's."

Walker also highlighted the need to draw companies from Minnesota and Illinois, the latter of which just raised its personal income taxes and corporate rates to contend with a growing budget deficit. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signed the temporary tax increases into law Thursday.

"Businesses look not only at where they are at that moment," Walker said, but also where they will be in the long term. State Sen. Terry Moulton, R-Lake Hallie; state Rep. Thomas Larson, R-Colfax; Mike Walsh, Silver Spring president; and Shawn Kapanke, Silver Spring vice president of manufacturing operations, stood by Walker as he spoke.

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## Walker/Threats 'taken seriously'

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Quinn has rejected the idea that the increases would allow other states to lure jobs away. "Lots of luck to them, but that's not going to happen," Quinn, a Democrat, said at a news conference Wednesday.

Businesses look at more than taxes when making financial decisions, Quinn added. They also look at whether state government is stable and able to provide good roads and schools.

"It's important for their state government not to be a fiscal basket case," Quinn said.

Walker championed the need to take the opposite approach, providing property, income and corporate tax relief. He also said regulation and litigation reform would enhance the

■ U.S. Sen. Johnson, U.S. Rep. Sensenbrenner, two state lawmakers also targets of online threats. Page 7A.

state's business climate.

"Our people and our places aren't the problem," Walker said. "(The) challenge I think has been the expense of government."

Moulton described the new governor as someone "who's going to make the very difficult decisions and not worry about getting elected again" and applauded his position on reforming the administrative rules process.

"The power belongs in the hands of the governor and Legislature," Moulton said, "not in the hands of nonelected bureaucrats."

When asked about Saturday's shootings in Tuc-

son, Ariz., involving U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, Walker described the event as a tragedy and said his administration "takes all threats seriously." Walker and Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch recently received an online threat that's under investigation.

"I'm not going let that stop me from reaching out to the people of Wisconsin," Walker said, adding that he has to make sure it "doesn't interfere with the work I was elected to do."

Silver Spring Foods was founded by Ellis Huntsinger in 1929 and is owned by his granddaughter and her sons.

"There are so many companies in Wisconsin that have had multigenerational ownership," Walker said. "There are some great stories out there.

"(We) want to make



Staff photo by Shane Opatz

While in Eau Claire on Thursday, Gov. Scott Walker touted legislation recently introduced in special session that's intended to create jobs in the state.

there are more stories of success."

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