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Thirty-eight years ago this summer I began working in the Menomonee Valley. It was a part-time job necessitated by a renovation project at Donner Packing Company, where my father was the Executive Vice President. I continued working summers and part-time throughout high school and college (Marquette University High School and Marquette University). Upon graduation from Marquette in 1974, I became a full-time employee of the company. Several years later, Donner became part of Peck Meat Packing; the first of what would become many changes in ownership. I continued with the succeeding companies, rising to the position of Director of Cattle Procurement; the position I now hold. About midway through this period, I attended Keller Graduate School and gained an MBA from this institution. We are currently owned by Cargill (a company that shares many of the same goals and values espoused by the leaders of the Valley's renovation).

In recent years Peck has become more involved with our community at large. Because of this we joined two statewide organizations: the Wisconsin Agribusiness Council and the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium. I feel honored to have been elected to the Boards of both these groups and continue to serve proudly on them.

I have witnessed, firsthand, the dramatic transformation of the Menomonee Valley over the last forty years. Coal yards are now athletic fields; a junkyard is a casino; a Harley Motorcycle Museum is proposed where there once were mountains of salt. The transformation, however, is not complete; much more needs to be done. That is why I am so excited about the possibility of my involvement with Business Improvement District # 26. We can, through a cooperative effort, turn the vision of a redeveloped Menomonee Valley into a reality.