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Contact: Carla Vigue, Office of the Governor, 608-261-2162

Timothy Le Mond, Public Service Commission, 608-266-9600

Governor Doyle Announces Wisconsin 5th in Achieving Energy Efficiency Goals

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that Wisconsin is the fifth best state in the country in terms of energy efficiency accomplishments. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy's recently released report uses expert review of energy efficiency spending and savings data to identify the 14 top states in the nation. The report, "Meeting Aggressive New State Goals for Utility-Sector Energy Efficiency: Examining Key Factors Associated with High Savings," examines specific factors in the top performing states that may be important in determining how to energy efficiency goals.

Wisconsin's ranking is based on an analysis of the Focus on Energy program, a statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource program.

"The Focus on Energy program is consistently one of the best in the country and we need to build on its strengths to help us achieve the targets outlined in my Task Force on Global Warming," Governor Doyle said. "By charting a clean energy future, we'll save money, create jobs, help secure our world and improve our air and water."

The Governor's Task Force on Global Warming proposed a major increase in the state's current energy efficiency program. Rather than focusing on a spending cap, the policy recommends that the state adopt annual targets for reducing electric load and natural gas use. The targets for 2009 were to reduce electric load by 0.75% and natural gas use by 0.5% from what they would otherwise have been without energy efficiency measures. The annual reduction targets would increase gradually until they reach 2% for electric load and 1% for natural gas use in 2015 and each subsequent year.

The task force is an integral part of *Clean Energy Wisconsin*, Governor Doyle's strategy to strengthen Wisconsin's energy future. This comprehensive plan moves Wisconsin forward by promoting renewable energy, creating new jobs, increasing energy security and efficiency, and improving the environment.

Since coming into office, Governor Doyle has worked to make Wisconsin a leader in renewable energy. Governor Doyle's plan for energy independence includes: Generating 25 percent of our electricity and 25 percent of the fuels for our cars and trucks from renewable sources by the year 2025; capturing 10 percent of the market share for renewable energy and bioproducts, and utilizing Wisconsin's tremendous capability for research to become the country's leader in making alternative energies more affordable and available to all.