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Wisconsin Utilities and Businesses Win under Governor Doyle's Clean Energy Jobs Act

Commerce Secretary and PSC Chairperson agree on plan's value for Wisconsin

LA CROSSE – In a visit to Gunderson Lutheran Hospital and Honda Motorwerks, two leaders in renewable energy and conservation strategies, Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairperson Eric Callisto and Department of Commerce Secretary Dick Leinenkugel said Governor Doyle's Clean Energy Jobs Act will grow Wisconsin's economy by creating clean energy jobs and helping businesses and consumers use energy more efficiently.

"Increasing our renewable portfolio and investing more in energy efficiency makes sense for Wisconsin," said PSC Chairperson Callisto. "The cost of conserving energy is far less than the cost of building new power generation."

"Every year, \$16 billion leaves Wisconsin to pay for fuel to run our vehicles and heat our buildings," Commerce Secretary Dick Leinenkugel said. "We are not a state with coal, oil or natural gas, but we are a state with enormous manufacturing expertise, rich agricultural and forest land, and tremendous ability to research and innovate. The Clean Energy Jobs Act is designed to harness this potential to improve our economy, save money and confront climate change."

Governor Doyle's Clean Energy Jobs Act implements recommendations of his Global Warming Task Force to address climate change and grow the state's green economy. The package would:

- Require use of renewable energy sources for 20 percent of Wisconsin's needs by 2020 and 25 percent by 2025. This will ensure more energy dollars remain in the state. Wisconsin currently spends \$16 billion per year on imported energy to heat homes and fuel cars and trucks.
- Increase energy efficiency and energy conservation efforts with graduated statewide electricity savings goals, leading to a 2 percent reduction in energy use by 2015 and annual reductions thereafter.
- Create jobs, more than 1,800 in the first year, many of them construction jobs, according to new industry-recognized research. Economists and policy analysts estimate the package will create 800 to 1,800 new construction jobs per year through 2025 and more than 2,000 manufacturing jobs once the energy act provisions are fully implemented.

To see the economic assessment of the Clean Energy Jobs Act on businesses across Wisconsin, visit:
<http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=18757>

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