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Governor Doyle Announces Dislocated Workers at the Kohler Company to Receive Additional Assistance

Additional Training Also Available for Former Omni Softgoods & TAC Worldwide Employees

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle announced today the availability of additional reemployment services for all workers of Kohler Company in Kohler who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after October 12, 2006.

“This additional federal funding will help these workers improve their skills, preparing them for new employment opportunities as our economy evolves and we compete at the high end,” Governor Doyle said. “I am pleased we are able to offer these workers further assistance to help them return to the workforce, so they can support themselves and their families and enjoy all that life has to offer in Wisconsin.”

Nearly 500 workers will benefit from the services that are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The services are available through local Job Centers and funded through the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. Tailored to meet the needs of individual workers, they include:

- **Training** for employment in another job or career
- **Income Support**, known as trade readjustment allowances (TRA)
- **Job Search Allowance** for expenses incurred in seeking employment outside normal commuting areas
- **Relocation Allowances** for approved relocations expenses to relocate to a new area of employment.

Governor Doyle also announced the additional reemployment services for dislocated workers at two other firms: approximately 45 workers, totally or partially separated from employment at Omni Softgoods in Spring Green on or after September 13, 2006; and an estimated 23 workers, totally or partially separated from employment at TAC Worldwide Companies in Oak Creek, on or after January 16, 2007. The TAC Worldwide employees were working at Delphi Corporation.

“This federal funding will help us serve all of these affected workers, as we help them regain employment as quickly as possible,” DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said.

Affected workers are also eligible to apply for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA), which is available to workers aged 50 or older who possess skills that are not easily transferable. Qualifying workers who obtain new employment within 26 weeks of separation can receive a wage subsidy to help bridge the salary gap between their old and new employment. The program was designed to provide assistance to workers for whom the retraining offered under the regular TAA program may not be appropriate.

Individuals interested in receiving reemployment assistance should contact a local Job Center or visit <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dws/programs/dislocated/default.htm>. The nearest Job Center location can be found by calling (888) 258-9966 toll free.