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Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Serigraph, Inc., West Bend

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle announced today the availability of additional reemployment services for workers of Serigraph, Inc., West Bend, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after May 13, 2007.

“This additional federal assistance will help these workers receive training to improve their skills, preparing them for new jobs,” Governor Doyle said. “I am pleased we are able to help these workers reenter the workforce, so they can support themselves and their families and enjoy all that life in Wisconsin has to offer.”

The services, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), are available through local Job Centers and funded through the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. They include retraining and reemployment services tailored to meet the needs of individual workers. Major activities and services for which these workers may qualify for are:

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

“These are services that we and our local partners can provide affected workers to help connect them with employers in search of workers with the right skills,” DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said.

Services will be available to an estimated 91 workers at Serigraph, Inc., West Bend. The worker group also includes leased workers of SEEK, Adecco, OPS, and SITE working on-site at Serigraph, Inc., in West Bend. Workers there produced pressure sensitive printed parts. A Department of Labor investigation determined that the decline in employment at Serigraph, Inc. is related to a shift in plant production of pressure sensitive printed parts to Mexico.

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.