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Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Cequent Trailer Division in Mosinee

Employment, training services for 160 workers displaced by production shift abroad

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that 160 dislocated workers formerly employed by the Trailer Division of Cequent Performance in Mosinee, including temporary workers provided by ABR Employment Services and Westphal Staffing, are eligible to apply for additional re-employment and training services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

“This additional assistance will help these workers gain new job skills,” Governor Doyle said. “The TAA employment and training services now available to them will help them re-enter the workforce and support themselves and their families.”

The U.S. Department of Labor determined that workers were displaced due to a shift of production of trailer ramps, jacks and couplers to China and Mexico. All workers totally or partially separated from employment on or after June 24, 2008, through August 20, 2011, are eligible to apply for assistance.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) will administer the federally funded services, which are available through local Job Centers. They include retraining and re-employment services tailored to meet the needs of individual workers. These workers can now apply for the following TAA services:

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

In June, Governor Doyle announced that the U.S. Department of Labor expanded the amount of TAA funds available nationwide to \$575 million from \$220 million as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The additional funding will help states serve an increasing number of trade-affected workers. More information on the TAA program is available at <http://www.doleta.gov>.

Individuals interested in receiving re-employment assistance should contact a local Job Center or visit <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory/> to find a Job Center nearby. The nearest Job Center location also can be found by calling (888) 258-9966 toll free.