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Secretary Gassman Cites Opportunities for Job Growth under Governor Doyle's Comprehensive Clean Energy Plan

Ruud Lighting President Christopher Ruud backs Governor Doyle's plan

RACINE – In a visit to Ruud Lighting, Inc., Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman said Governor Doyle's Clean Energy Jobs Act will help the global manufacturer of energy-efficient lighting and many other businesses create jobs.

"Governor Doyle's comprehensive Clean Energy Jobs Act will create thousands of good, family-supporting jobs, grow our economy and help Wisconsin gain its energy independence," Secretary Gassman said. "The direct result of this package will be at least 15,000 jobs by 2025, including more than 1,800 in the first year alone. Working families, employers, the people of Wisconsin, we all win with this proposal."

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 comprehensive 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.

During Secretary Gassman's visit to Ruud Lighting's BetaLED Division, Ruud Lighting President Christopher Ruud endorsed Governor Doyle's proposal with its higher goals for renewable energy use and measures to encourage greater energy efficiency and conservation. Ruud Lighting has more than 500 employees with over 25 percent growth in 2009.

"The Clean Energy Jobs Act is a step in the right direction for the State of Wisconsin to take the lead on energy efficiency," President Ruud said. "Choosing LED technology for a variety of lighting applications is an easy way to reduce energy that will ultimately meet the 2% energy reduction by 2015. And as more and more cities and states adopt this leading edge technology, the potential to add jobs to meet the demand creates a winning formula for Wisconsin."

To view the economic assessment of the clean Energy Jobs Act, visit:

<http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=18757>