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Secretary Gassman: Governor Doyle Sees Job Growth for Working Families in Clean Energy, Advanced Manufacturing, Wisconsin's Future

State Labor Secretary highlights Governor's State of State address vision during tour of advanced manufacturing training facilities at Watertown campus of Madison College

WATERTOWN – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman said today the bold agenda Governor Doyle outlined in his state of the state address this week will create jobs and put Wisconsin at the forefront in clean energy technology and advanced manufacturing.

"Governor Doyle sees a sure path to economic growth and job creation in clean energy and high-end manufacturing," Secretary Gassman said. "For him, the number one priority is helping our businesses create jobs and giving our workers opportunities to get those jobs. Wisconsin is poised for growth."

During a visit to the Watertown campus of Madison College, Secretary Gasman listed Governor Doyle's job growth proposals offered Tuesday evening. The job creating agenda includes:

- **Clean Energy Jobs Act**, a comprehensive package that will create 15,000 jobs in construction and manufacturing by 2025 while helping Wisconsin gain its energy independence by increasing efficiency and conservation efforts and using more renewable energy. Wisconsin currently spends \$16 billion per year on imported energy to heat homes and fuel cars and trucks.
- **Wisconsin Green to Gold Fund**, a \$100 million revolving loan fund for manufacturers that will help manufacturers lower their energy costs, improve their bottom line, and retain and create jobs. The Governor will also invest \$1.75 million through the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership to help small and mid-sized manufacturers use sustainable practices to give them a competitive edge.
- **Wisconsin CORE Jobs Act**, legislation to provide millions in tax credits for angel and venture capital investments, and fund additional training for workers. For example, it calls for \$1.5 million a year to be distributed to technical college district boards for advanced manufacturing skills training. Introduced by two lawmakers, the bill would expand the Governor's Accelerate Wisconsin plan.
- **Dairy Modernization Tax Credit**, a critical measure for hard-pressed dairy farmers. The Governor called on the Legislature to extend the expired dairy modernization tax credit to help dairy farmers invest in their operations.
- **Food Processing Modernization Tax Credit**, similar to dairy and livestock industry investment tax credits, this would help the food processing companies cut costs, invest in new technologies, save energy and create jobs.

To help businesses create jobs and get people back to work, Governor Doyle has created some of the strongest economic development tools in the country, Secretary Gassman said. She said his efforts have helped bring businesses and thousands of new jobs to communities throughout Wisconsin.

At the Madison College Watertown campus, Secretary Gassman addressed students and faculty, then toured training facilities where students, including dislocated workers, learned skills in advanced manufacturing. The day also included a similar stop at Moraine Park Technical Institute in Beaver Dam.