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## **Secretary Gassman: Wisconsin Poised to Expand under Governor Doyle's Agenda for Job Growth, Clean Energy, Advanced Manufacturing**

### ***State Labor Secretary highlights Governor's agenda for job creation, economic growth during tour of Teel Plastics' new green, lean manufacturing plant in Baraboo***

BARABOO – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman said today Governor Doyle's bold plans for economic growth will create jobs and put Wisconsin at the forefront in clean energy technology and advanced manufacturing.

"Governor Doyle's number one priority is helping our businesses create jobs and giving our workers opportunities to get those jobs," Secretary Gassman said. "He sees opportunities for both businesses and workers in clean energy and high-end manufacturing. Wisconsin is poised for growth."

During a visit to Teel Plastics, Secretary Gasman listed Governor Doyle's job growth proposals offered last week in his State of the State address. They include:

- **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 continue the tax credit to help dairy farmers invest in their operations.
- **Food Processing Modernization Tax Credit**, similar to dairy and livestock industry investment tax credits, it would help 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.

Secretary Gassman met with Teel Plastics President Jay Smith and toured the company's new 150,000-square-foot headquarters, a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility incorporating green and lean manufacturing principles. With the new facility, Smith said he wanted to reduce energy costs and improve the work environment for his 250 employees. Achieving greater energy and manufacturing efficiencies improve the bottom line, he said.

"Jay Smith and Teel Plastics are setting an example for other manufacturers," Secretary Gassman said. "Teel Plastics offers a glimpse of the future, what Governor Doyle sees as opportunities for economic growth and job creation in clean energy technology and advanced manufacturing."