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Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Gormac Products in Racine

Employment, training services for 55 displaced following drop in customer orders

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that 55 workers displaced at Gormac Products, Inc., in Racine, 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 increase their job skills and find new employment,” Governor Doyle said. “These employment and training services will help them re-enter the workforce and support themselves and their families.”

Gormac Products produced and sold precision machined parts to a manufacturer of bicycle parts and hydraulic control valves. Its customer reduced its orders and its workforce. Dislocated workers at the manufacturing site received TAA certification. Now the 55 dislocated workers at Gormac Products also qualify for TAA certification as employees of a supplier adversely affected by foreign competition.

The TAA certification applies to workers displaced as of December 28, 2008, through March 2, 2012. Affected workers will be notified of meetings to discuss program benefits.

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,
- **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.

“Working with our partners, we provide these services to displaced workers to help them get the training they need and connect with employers in search of workers with the right skills,” DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said.

Last year, 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 (ARRA). 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 toll free (888) 258-9966.