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## **DWD Secretary Newson: Seasonal Workforce Coalition Partners Play Important Role in Connecting Jobseekers to Jobs**

*Secretary Newson and Executive Assistant Maxwell applaud employers for collaborative efforts*

NEW BERLIN – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson and Executive Assistant Georgia Maxwell today encouraged members of the Seasonal Workforce Coalition to continue their innovative and collaborative efforts to connect jobseekers to jobs, which ultimately will advance economic growth in southeastern Wisconsin.

“Governor Walker’s top priority is helping the private sector create jobs for individuals, and DWD is at the forefront of helping to connect jobseekers to these jobs,” Secretary Newson said during remarks at the Coalition’s quarterly meeting held at BuySeasons Inc. in New Berlin. “Our agency is committed to working with employers including Seasonal Workforce Coalition members to provide employment opportunities, which will benefit the southeastern Wisconsin economy.”

The Seasonal Workforce Coalition is composed of a number of member companies in southeastern Wisconsin, including BuySeasons, UPS, Time Warner Cable, WE Energies and FedEx Smart Post. Through the Coalition, over 2,000 seasonal workers each year are provided regular employment at a number of companies that hire on a seasonal basis. These seasonal opportunities help workers build skills and experience to successfully pursue full-time employment.

Pat Delmenhorst, Program Manager for the Seasonal Workforce Coalition stated: “The Coalition is very pleased to welcome Secretary Newson as our guest at the quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin Seasonal Workforce Coalition. Our member companies and workforce agencies have been interested in hearing the Secretary’s views on how seasonal work can be a tool for building confidence and skills for individuals to advance in the workplace. Members also have been interested in learning how DWD may help the Coalition to create new systems for closing the skills gap in our state.”

With approximately 1,600 employees, DWD works with employers to fill jobs, provides training and employment services to workers, enforces workers’ rights, and administers Unemployment Insurance and Worker’s Compensation programs.