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DWD Secretary Newson: Governor Works with Legislature to Further Strengthen State Worker's Compensation Program

WISCONSIN DELLS – In presenting the annual Wisconsin Corporate Safety Awards this evening, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson said Wisconsin enjoys a competitive advantage over other states, due in part to a nationally regarded worker's compensation program that was further strengthened during the recent legislative session.

"When it comes to worker's compensation, Wisconsin is known across the country as a great state for employers and for workers," Secretary Newson said. "Our average cost per case ranks among the nation's lowest. The premiums employers pay are among the lowest. A recent worker's compensation study ranked Wisconsin first among 11 states in worker satisfaction. Our standing is a credit to Governor Walker as well as our many stakeholders in the Legislature, private sector and other entities who work in partnership to improve our worker's compensation system."

Secretary Newson said that Wisconsin's competitive advantage was strengthened recently with enactment of legislation that was recommended by the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council. The council's agreed-upon legislation was unanimously approved on a bipartisan basis by both chambers of the Legislature, and on April 2, Governor Walker signed it into law. Governor Walker thanked state Rep. Joan Ballweg of Markesan and Sen. Van Wanggaard of Racine, who serve as ex-officio members of the Council and co-authored the agreed-upon legislation.

DWD administers the state's Worker's Compensation program, which promotes safety and injury prevention in the workplace, and also provides a system for compensation when workplace injuries occur.

Workplace safety is highlighted through the annual Wisconsin Corporate Safety Awards program, which is co-sponsored by DWD and the Wisconsin Safety Council, an educational division of the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce. DWD and the Council announced the 14 winners of the 2011 awards in March and honored them this evening at the 70th Annual Wisconsin Safety and Health Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

The winners are:

- Campbell Soup Supply Co. LLC, Milwaukee
- Colony Brands, Inc., Monroe
- Dillman Equipment, a division of Astec, Inc., Prairie du Chien
- GE Healthcare, Madison
- Georgia Pacific Green Bay Broadway, Green Bay
- J.F. Ahern Co., Fond du Lac

(more)

- MAG – IAS, LLC, Fond du Lac
- Phillips Medical, New Richmond
- Phillips Plastics Corporation - Operations Center, Eau Claire
- RGL Specialty Services, LLC, Green Bay
- Scheck Mechanical Wisconsin Corporation, Kaukauna
- Tweet/Garot Mechanical, Inc., Green Bay
- Viking Gas Transmission, Chippewa Falls/Osceola
- We Energies, Milwaukee