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DWD Secretary Updates Northwest Wisconsin Leaders on Governor Walker's Agenda to Grow Jobs, Advance Economy

As part of visit to new Red Cliff facility, Secretary Newson discusses 'Wisconsin Working' plan

RED CLIFF – During a visit today with Northwest Wisconsin workforce leaders, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson reinforced Governor Walker's commitment to advance job creation in communities across Wisconsin and align workforce and economic development resources with high-wage, high-growth industries.

"Under Governor Walker's leadership, we are focused on meeting the needs of employers throughout the state and on working collaboratively with local education and economic development partners to ensure that resources are available to aid businesses that are hiring and expanding," Secretary Newson said to members of the Northwestern Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board (NWWIB). "We look forward to working with our partners in northwestern Wisconsin and in other regions across the state to connect job seekers with available jobs, and to support a system that trains individuals for opportunities now and into the future."

Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce released a study in June 2010 projecting that there will be 925,000 new and replacement job openings in Wisconsin between 2008 and 2018., with 61% requiring at least some post-secondary training. DWD has been working with other agencies in state government and with job creators to analyze and recommend enhancements to the state's workforce system.

One group studying this need is the Governor's College and Workforce Readiness Council, which includes leaders from DWD, the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and the University of Wisconsin system. The council is currently examining proposals that will support vocational education efforts and provide shorter-term educational opportunities that will result in a certificate or degree that enables state residents to find meaningful work.

During his visit to Red Cliff, Secretary Newson toured the Legendary Waters Resort and Casino, which opened in August 2011 in Red Cliff north of Bayfield. He also met with representatives from the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Lac Courtes Oreilles Band of Ojibwe on current and potential efforts by DWD to partner with Native American tribes and on various workforce initiatives.