

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 19, 2009

CONTACT: Chris Marschman, Communications Specialist, 608-261-6705

## **Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at AxleTech International, Oshkosh**

### ***Employment, training services for 37 workers displaced by foreign competition***

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that 37 dislocated workers at AxleTech International, Oshkosh Division, a subsidiary of General Dynamics, Oshkosh, are eligible to apply for additional re-employment and training services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

"I am pleased to announce the availability of this additional assistance, which will help 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."

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) determined the workers were displaced due to foreign competition in the production of axles and transfer cases. A major AxleTech customer significantly reduced its purchases and laid off workers because of foreign competition. DOL certified those workers as TAA eligible and has now extended the same assistance to AxleTech workers.

All AxleTech workers displaced on or after August 31, 2008, through November 9, 2011, are eligible to apply for assistance. 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 (TRA),
- **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.

In June, 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) of 2009. 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.