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## **Governor Doyle Directs Cabinet Secretaries to Resubmit Budget Requests**

Governor Jim Doyle met with his Cabinet for the first time today, directing each Secretary to use the first weeks in office to take a hard look at their budgets and resubmit a significantly lower budget request than those submitted by the outgoing administration.

"The budget requests we have seen so far are unacceptable. They ask for spending increases conservatively of over \$500 million in the first year alone," Doyle said. "The culture of ever increasing spending must stop. I've directed that the budget for this year that my administration submits on February 18 spend less money – in actual GPR dollars -than last year's budget."

"That means not only will we freeze the overall level of last year's spending, but we will go even lower," Doyle said. "I've also asked that each agency identify how they can work more closely with other agencies – looking for the areas of duplication among their programs, ways we can do things better or more efficiently, and areas where we can consolidate divisions and maybe even whole agendas."

Doyle was joined by: Secretary of Administration Marc Marotta, Budget Director David Riemer, Secretary of Health and Family Services Helene Nelson, Secretary of Corrections Matthew Frank, Secretary of Revenue Michael Morgan, Secretary of Tourism Kevin Shibilski, Secretary of Employment Relations Karen Timberlake, Secretary of Transportation Frank Busalacchi, Secretary of Natural Resources Scott Hasset, Secretary of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary of Workforce Development Roberta Gassman, Public Service Commission Chairwoman Burnie Bridge, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority Antonio Riley, and Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton.

"From here on out, every decision facing state government will be based on the answer to one simple question: What's best for the people of Wisconsin?," Doyle told his cabinet members. "If a program doesn't help people, then we can't afford it."