



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
STATE REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT SUDER:
STATE SENATOR DAVE ZIEN

APRIL 20, 2006
1-(608) 267-0280
1-(608) 266-7511

SUDER/ZIEN “JOBZ ACT” BECOMES LAW

NORTHERN LAWMAKERS’ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WILL FUEL
BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN DISADVANTAGED AREAS IN WISCONSIN

MADISON...Part of the Rural JOBZ Act was signed into law according to State Representative Scott Suder (R-Abbotsford) and State Senator Dave Zien (R-Wheaton). Despite the fact that Governor Doyle vetoed much of the ‘rural’ language out of the Rural JOBZ Act and opened up the business development program to Madison and Milwaukee, Suder and Zien said they will work to ensure that their legislation will still provide economic development opportunities to disadvantaged areas throughout the state. Suder and Zien sponsored the Rural JOBZ Act proposal in an effort to fuel business investment and development in rural communities through a series of tax credits aimed at rewarding businesses for making rural Wisconsin their home. As a result of the Governor’s vetoes which remove the ‘rural’ designation from the proposal, the two northern lawmakers said their first legislative priority for next session will be to revamp their JOBZ program to put the ‘rural’ back in the Rural JOBZ Act.

“While I am disappointed in the Governor’s veto which removed the rural portion of the Rural JOBZ Act, I will do everything I can to make this program work for northern Wisconsin,” said Suder. “Why the Governor decided to include Madison and Milwaukee in what was supposed to be a rural jobs program is beyond me. The fact is that nearly 80% of the current enterprise zone funds already go to communities with populations greater than 5,000.”

Suder and Zien fashioned the ‘Rural JOBZ Act’ after a similar business incentive program in Minnesota that has successfully helped generate nearly \$400 million in new capital investments, created over \$80 million in new wages and over 3,300 high paying jobs in rural parts of the state for a little more than \$6 million in lost tax revenue. The lawmakers said before the Governor took his veto pen to their proposal, the Rural JOBZ Act would have made Wisconsin more competitive in the business recruitment battle with Minnesota and other mid-western states whose tax climate is more business friendly. Suder and Zien said that Governor Doyle did a great disservice today to border communities in northern Wisconsin who have already lost hundreds of jobs to Minnesota’s JOBZ program and were depending on the Rural JOBZ Act to keep pace. Despite the Governor’s misguided vetoes, Suder and Zien said their bill still provides a starting point for helping disadvantaged communities compete in the global marketplace. Suder and Zien said the Governor’s vetoes will force them to reintroduce a Rural JOBZ Act 2 immediately next session to correct the Governor’s attempt to focus the program on southeastern Wisconsin.

“Our bill creates tax incentives to reward job training programs which will help our entire area,” Zien said. “Rep. Suder and I are committed to working with local units of government and other interested parties to make this program work for northern Wisconsin.”

Suder and Zien thanked the economic development groups, trade associations, and local government leaders who helped to make the ‘JOBZ Act’ a reality for Wisconsin. Suder and Zien encourage all businesses, chambers of commerce and local governmental units who want to compete for the JOBZ Zone designation to contact the Department of Commerce for further details at 1-608-266-1018.