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Governor Doyle Announces Economic Growth Council

Governor Jim Doyle today announced the formation of his Economic Growth Council, which he called "a partnership between my administration and Wisconsin business, labor, education, and economic development leaders to help me implement our efforts to improve Wisconsin's economy." The council will be co-chaired by Tom Hefty of Milwaukee and John Noel of Stevens Point, and will include leaders from across the state and representing a broad spectrum of industries and institutions.

"Government has an important role to play in economic development – balancing our budget without tax increases, providing tax relief through the single factor sales tax, offering economic incentives to businesses, maintaining a world class education system, and more," Governor Doyle said. "But we cannot meet all of our challenges nor fulfill our potential through the actions of government alone. That is why the council members will be collaborative partners to my administration, working with me to attract prospective businesses to our state and to implement a pro-growth agenda that marshals the full resources of business, educational institutions and government."

The first order of business for the Council will be to review the input collected from the Governor's twelve economic growth roundtables around the state. They will also review the progress of eight cabinet-level working groups the Governor has established to ensure that all agencies – from Commerce to Corrections -- are focused on economic growth. The Governor is asking the council to identify any gaps or oversights, help prioritize issues and initiatives, and offer feedback on implementing economic development initiatives.

Members of the Economic Growth Council include:

- Tom Hefty, co-chair, Milwaukee, former Chairman and CEO of the Cobalt Corporation and now with the law firm of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren
- John Noel, co-chair, Stevens Point, entrepreneur who started the Noel Group to provide travel insurance and turned the company into a major employer in the Stevens Point area. The Noel Group is now the leading company in the nation in travel insurance.

- Harvey Pierce, Madison, American Family Insurance
- Tom Boldt, Appleton, Boldt Construction
- Larry Ferguson, Green Bay, Schreiber Foods
- Larry Weyers, Green Bay, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Wisconsin Public Service
- John Torinus, West Bend, Serigraph
- Paul Mirabella, Waukesha, GE Medical
- Jay Williams, Milwaukee, U.S. Bank
- Mary Jurmain, Eau Claire, Reality Works
- Bob Cervenka, Phillips, Phillips Plastic
- Michael Brown, Two Rivers, Fisher Hamilton
- Ralph Kauten, Madison, Quintessence
- John Byrnes, Milwaukee, Mason Wells
- Paul Carbonne, Milwaukee, Baird
- Katherine Lyall, UW System
- Elizabeth Burmaster, Department of Public Instruction
- Richard Carpenter, Wisconsin Technical College System
- Mike Bolger, Milwaukee, Medical College of Wisconsin
- Dave Newby, AFL-CIO
- Ann Crump, Milwaukee, Communications Workers of America
- Lyle Balistreri, Milwaukee, Milwaukee Building Trades Council
- Tom Still, Madison, Wisconsin Technology Council
- Tim Sheehy, Milwaukee, MMAC
- Jim Haney, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
- Bill Smith, National Federation of Independent Businesses
- Joel Rogers, Madison, Professor, UW Madison
- Don Nichols, Madison, LaFollette Institute
- Tim Keane, Milwaukee, Marquette University
- Art Smith, Milwaukee, Keystone Travel
- Tom Lyon, Shawano, retired, Cooperative Resources International

Additional members of the Council will be named in the coming days.