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Governor Doyle Calls For Quick Action on Economic Development

Urges Bipartisan Cooperation and 'Sense of Urgency' in Passing Legislative Elements of Grow Wisconsin Plan

WAUSAU – Speaking at a forum sponsored by *Building a New Wisconsin Economy*, Governor Jim Doyle today pledged to move quickly to implement his “Grow Wisconsin” initiative and called on legislative leaders to work with him to pass the legislative elements of the plan without delay.

“A few of the items in this plan will require legislation,” Doyle said. “I’m challenging the Legislature to get down to the business at hand. This isn’t a time for politics; it is a time for creating jobs for Wisconsin families. Anyone who reads my plan will see that it is bipartisan – including ideas offered up by Democrats and Republicans. I hope that my commitment to doing this in a cooperative, bipartisan way will be matched by the Legislature, and I call on them to work with me to implement this agenda of action without delay.”

The Governor noted that his administration has already taken important steps to lay the foundation for economic growth in Wisconsin, including balancing the budget without a tax increase, passing the single sales factor law to make Wisconsin competitive and ensure that our tax code does not punish companies that create jobs, and passing legislation to encourage the siting of power generation facilities. The Governor pledged that the “Grow Wisconsin” plan would build on these successes, and take the next steps.

“Most of the items included in this plan do not require legislation – they simply require a new commitment from government to work harder, faster and smarter to improve the business climate,” Governor Doyle said. “We have program after program directed toward economic development. And every year, we spend an enormous amount of money on these efforts. But what we haven’t had is a strategy and vision. It’s time to get serious and focus on creating high-end jobs and businesses, using resources efficiently and directing our effort where we’ll get the most bang for our buck.”

“We know what the challenges are,” Doyle added. “We have a strong consensus on many of the steps that have to be taken. What we need now is the focus, commitment, and sense of urgency to get it done right, and get it done quickly.”

Announced last week, “Grow Wisconsin” is a comprehensive agenda of action to get Wisconsin’s economy moving again, producing the kind of good paying jobs that permit people to support their families, buy a home, and enjoy the great life Wisconsin has to offer.

A copy of the “Grow Wisconsin” plan can be downloaded at <http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us>.