

September 23, 2003

The Honorable Mary Panzer, Majority Leader
Wisconsin State Senate
Room 211 South – State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Majority Leader Panzer:

We are writing to express our sincere frustration with the leadership of Roberta Gassman as Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development. At a time when the state economy is greatly suffering, one would expect that the leader of such an important state agency would make every effort to work closely with the driving force of economic development in this state; the business community.

However, under the leadership of Secretary Gassman we have seen this agency take no action to improve the environment for employers or to increase employment opportunities in Wisconsin. The final straw came with the Governor's announcement of a plan forwarded by Secretary Gassman to increase the state minimum wage *without the approval of the Legislature*.

The effort by Secretary Gassman and Governor Doyle to scoff blatantly at legislative oversight of the minimum wage should not go unchallenged. Secretary Gassman's performance in the nine months on the job offers ample evidence for the State Senate to reject her confirmation. We commend Senator Cathy Stepp, Chair of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing, for taking a deliberative approach in reviewing Roberta Gassman's appointment.

The State Senate can achieve two high priority goals by rejecting the appointment of Roberta Gassman:

- 1.) Promoting a positive business climate in state government regulation.
- 2.) Asserting legislative oversight and confirmation prerogatives.

We look forward to your response on this important request.

Sincerely,

Representative Stephen L. Nass
Chairman, Assembly Labor Committee

Senator Tom Reynolds
Chairman, Senate Labor, Small Business
Development and Consumer Affairs