



Wisconsin Economic Development Association Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jim Hough @ 608-258-9506

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WEDA Applauds Introduction of Job Creation Act of 2003

The Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) today announced its support for the Job Creation Act of 2003 as a significant component of the state's efforts to improve and enhance Wisconsin's reputation as a place to live and do business. WEDA is a statewide association of economic development professionals dedicated to supporting initiatives aimed at expanding the economy of our great state.

Peter Thillman (WEDA Board member, Co-Chair of its Legislative Committee and Director of Economic Development for the city of Green Bay) offered the following testimonial to this important initiative:

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“Among the very highest priorities on WEDA's 2003-04 legislative agenda is the commitment to seek significant changes to the regulatory climate in Wisconsin. The current regulatory climate in Wisconsin is a huge impediment to economic development efforts in retention, expansion and attraction of businesses and jobs. Complex and time-consuming regulatory processes makes us less competitive and, quite frankly, is costing us jobs and impeding our ability to use growth as a key component in solving the state's serious budgetary deficit.”

The concern of WEDA members is one of process, not standards. We do not need to compromise standards to achieve regulatory reform. We need to assure timeliness and efficiency in our regulatory process. We need to prevent business opportunities leaving Wisconsin merely because other states provide faster regulatory approvals. We need to be as competitive in our regulatory process as we seek to be in other areas that we use to sell Wisconsin as a place to expand or locate a business.

As further testimonial to the need to improve our regulatory processes, Ron Brisbois, Executive Director of the Grant County Economic Development Corporation, relayed the following “real life” example of how regulatory delays cost us jobs:

“Recently, we had a business, located in Iowa, that was looking-to do a sizeable expansion and was looking at sites in Grant County, Dubuque and NW Illinois. We were advised by the business that Grant County was the frontrunner until the business discovered the timeframe to obtain a DNR air permit. This ruined Grant

County's chances of landing this business which would have created 50 new positions with an excellent pay scale for the region."

WEDA is very encouraged by the statements of the Governor and Legislative Leadership and respectfully urges the Legislature and the Governor to move forward in an expedited manner. This initiative is important to insure that needed changes to our regulatory processes become a reality and provide us an improved atmosphere for our existing businesses and those that are interested in relocation to our great state.