EXTRAORDINARY SESSION ON JOBS SET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: SPEAKER GARD**
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MADISON…Legislative leaders today announced that the Assembly and Senate would come back in extraordinary session the first week of December to take up additional job creation and economic development bills that can generate consensus even after this week's regular floor period was completed.

"The Governor has shown an interest in working with us on some of these important measures and has asked that we delay while his administration gets up to speed on these bills," said Assembly Speaker John Gard (R-Peshtigo). "We are happy to accommodate him even if it means bringing the legislature back in extraordinary session. This is an issue too important to let sit over the holidays."

This week, the Legislature will complete its last regularly scheduled floor period of the year. To date, the 2003 legislative session has been dominated by the state budget early in the year and job creation legislation this summer and fall. More bills have been taken up and acted upon in the area of job creation and economic development than in any, other, single, issue area this year (see attachment). Despite this productivity, Gard said legislative leadership hoped they could accomplish even more before the end of the year working with the Governor.

"Job creation has been Job One in the Legislature all year," said Gard. "We're on a roll, and if the Governor is willing to work with us to push a few additional reforms across the finish line before the end of the year we're willing to work overtime to do it."

Gard said he and the Senate Majority Leader Panzer would call the Legislature back into extraordinary session in the first week of December. The session would be limited to consideration of the comprehensive Job Creation Act of 2003 and other specific economic development and job creation bills.

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