



**TOMMY G. THOMPSON**

**Governor  
State of Wisconsin**

May 17, 2000

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I have approved Assembly Bill 471 as 1999 Wisconsin Act 177 and have deposited it in the Office of the Secretary of State. I have exercised the partial veto in Sections 1 and 2.

**AB 471** creates a small business employe training grant program within the Department of Commerce. An applicant under the program may receive up to \$10,000 in grants. Grant proceeds may be used for employe skills training and other education related to the needs of the business.

Sections 1 and 2 authorize the payment of small business employe training grants from the existing Wisconsin Development Fund appropriation. That appropriation currently funds nearly a dozen state economic development grant and loan programs. I am vetoing Section 1 and partially vetoing Section 2 to remove the reference to the Wisconsin Development Fund appropriation because adding a program of this magnitude will unacceptably dilute funding available for economic development and job creation in Wisconsin.

I remain steadfast in my support for small business growth and development and request the Department of Commerce to identify other potential sources of funding for this program. I am also committed to carefully reviewing a permanent source of funding for the program in my 2001-03 biennial budget. Through training, tax relief, venture capital, and technical assistance programs, small businesses and the Wisconsin economy will continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

  
TOMMY G. THOMPSON  
Governor

TGT/ds