

Committee Name:

**Senate Committee – Economic Development,
Job Creation and Housing
(SC–EDJCH)**

Appointments

03hr_SC–EDJCH_Appt_pt01

Committee Hearings

03hr_SC–EDJCH_CH_pt00

Committee Reports

03hr_SC–EDJCH_CR_pt00

Clearinghouse Rules

03hr_SC–EDJCH_CRule_03–

Executive Sessions

03hr_SC–EDJCH_ES_pt00

Hearing Records

03hr_ab0000

03hr_sb0000

Misc.

03hr_SC–EDJCH__Misc__pt00

Record of Committee Proceedings

03hr_SC–EDJCH_RCP_pt00

STATE OF WISCONSIN

JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR



January 10, 2003

To the Honorable, the Senate:

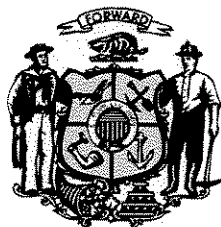
I am pleased to nominate and with the advice and consent of the Senate, do appoint Roberta Gassman to be Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development to serve at the pleasure of Governor.

Secretary Gassman will be available to the Senate for hearings and my staff will assist in any way they can.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Doyle".

JIM DOYLE
Governor



GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT

NAME/MAILING ADDRESS: Roberta Gassman
1915 Arlington Place
Madison, WI 53705

E-MAIL ADDRESS: roberta.gassman@dwd.state.wi.us

RESIDES IN: Madison, WI

TELEPHONE: (608) 267-1410
(608) 233-1766

OCCUPATION: Secretary
Department of Workforce Development

APPOINTED TO: Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development

TERM: A term to expire at the Pleasure of Governor

SUCCEEDS: Jennifer Alexander

SENATE CONFIRMATION: Yes

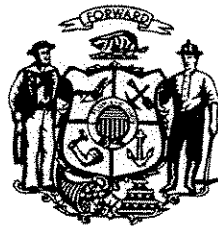
DATE OF APPOINTMENT: January 6, 2003

DATE OF NOMINATION: January 6, 2003

COMPENSATION: \$108,000

STATE OF WISCONSIN

JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR



January 6, 2003

Ms. Roberta Gassman
1915 Arlington Place
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Roberta:

I am pleased to appoint you as Secretary in the Department of Workforce Development effective January 6, 2003. Your experience, knowledge, and dedication will be a true asset to my administration and a great benefit to the people of Wisconsin.

Your salary will be \$108,000 annually and assigned to Executive Salary Group 6. This is an unclassified position serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

It is a new day for Wisconsin! I look forward to working with you to find creative ways of delivering services and implementing positive change for the citizens of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Doyle".

Jim Doyle
Governor

cc: Susan Goodwin
Bill Komarek, HR Director, DWD

ROBERTA GASSMAN

Gassman Communications & Public Affairs LLC

16 North Carroll Street, Suite 800

Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2726

608-260-2666 (p); 608-255-0227 (f); gassman@gcapa.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2001-Present **PRESIDENT, GASSMAN COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS LLC**

Direct complex strategic and external relations initiatives and provide related consulting services to variety of major community institutions including Overture Development Corporation, Meriter Health Services, Inc., SSM Health Care of Wisconsin, Inc., Madison Community Foundation, Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation, University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation. Managing all media and community relations for new \$100 million Overture Center for the Arts. Successfully facilitating St. Marys Hospital/neighborhood team, including work with city officials, to ensure needed hospital expansion on site. Successfully led community partnership to create new model for delivering women's regional reproductive health services.

1997-2001 **SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT SALES, MARKETING AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT, HOME SAVINGS BANK**

Served on bank's top leadership team and directed marketing, retail sales and community investment strategies for five-branch community bank. Initiated and led strategic alliances with major community institutions, including First Business Bank, REALTORS Association of South Central Wisconsin, Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison Teachers, Inc., City of Madison, to develop new financial products and services and expand markets. Promoted downtown by initiating "Downtown Partners" which sparked State Street Strategic Plan and Madison's first Business Improvement District. Loaned Executive to Overture Foundation to plan and direct all external relations for Overture Project. Initiated and led "At Home In Madison" to promote Madison, its schools and home ownership.

1991-1997 **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Directed all external communications and served as liaison to business community, elected officials, other units of government, educational and community organizations. Led strategy teams, including those with top managers and business and community leaders. Led successful lobbying effort to secure \$12 million in county funding for Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. Directed Dane County Economic

Summit Council, involving over 100 community leaders in creating an economic strategic plan for the county. Authored major policy speeches.

1989-1991 EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR

As top aide, directed Mayor's staff, hired and supervised department heads, served as spokesperson and liaison to media, Common Council, elected officials and business community. Organized and led Mayor's key efforts to promote downtown revitalization. Led program to kick-off and promote work of Monona Terrace Convention Center Commission. Authored major policy speeches.

1983-1987 GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADVISOR ON EMPLOYMENT AND WOMEN'S ISSUES

Led budgetary, legislative and administrative policies and programs to improve the economic status of Wisconsin women, promote entrepreneurship and small business development. Represented Governor on major statutory bodies, before Legislature, public and press and led work of cabinet officials. Authored major policy speeches. Led Governor's successful efforts to create Wisconsin Women's Council, work-site childcare and Women in Business Work Group, enact pay equity legislation and strengthen displaced homemakers services.

1977-1982, 1987-1989 OWNER AND MANAGER OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RELATIONS CONSULTING BUSINESS

Provided management and training services to state and local units of government and university, school, business and community organizations. Authored nationally recognized training programs.

1975-1977 ADMINISTRATOR AND TRAINER

Conducted statewide Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations training sessions to expand job options for women.

1972-1977 SOCIAL WORKER

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Featured on *In Business* cover, July, 1998, and in Executive Registers, 1997-2002
- Featured on *Madison Magazine* cover and in article, "Leadership: Who Will Step Up?" February, 2002
- Featured in *Wisconsin Woman*, "Wisconsin Women of Influence," December, 2001
- Selected by *Madison Magazine* as one of Madison's "Top 100 Women," August, 1999
- Honored by City of Madison Economic Development Commission for work of

- "Downtown Partners" to revitalize State Street, November, 1998
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- Selected by the *Wisconsin State Journal* for "Know Your Madisonian" feature, March, 1995
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- Honored by YWCA of Madison as "Woman of Distinction," 1984
- Featured in cover story, "The State of Wisconsin's Women," *Milwaukee Journal Magazine*, 1984
- Honored by Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, as one of top educators in Wisconsin, 1982
- Honored by Women's Educational Equity Communications Network by having work selected for nationwide publication, 1979

CIVIC EXPERIENCE

- Member, Downtown Madison, Inc. Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Community Relations Committee Chair, 1992-present
- Member and Vice President, Madison Art Center Board of Trustees, 1997-2001
- Member, Madison Repertory Theatre Board of Directors, 2000-2001
- Member, Board Member and Chair, Fund Drive Committee, Public Relations Committee, Downtown Rotary, 1997-present
- Member, Chancellor's Fiscal Integrity Task Force for NCAA Certification Program, 1999
- Member, Overture Foundation Project Advisory Council, 1998
- Member, Madison Community Foundation Grantmaking Committee, 1997-2001
- Member, TEMPO Madison, 1997-present
- Member, The Business Forum, 1997-2002
- Member, Business & Education Partnership, Inc., Board of Directors, 1997-2000
- Facilitator, "Downtown Partners," 1997-1999
- Member, Channel 3 Children's Advisory Board, 1997-1999
- Commissioner, Vice President and President, Madison Equal Opportunities Commission, 1977-1981
- Governor's Designee, Wisconsin Women's Council, 1983-1987
- Often asked to address professional and service organizations such as Wisconsin Women Entrepreneurs, Association for Women in Communications, Public Relations Society of America, Society for Marketing Professional Services, Madison Advertising Federation, Wisconsin Communicators Council, Rotary, Madison Community Foundation, A Fund For Women, Business Forum, Downtown Madison, Inc.

EDUCATION

- Executive Institutes for Senior Managers, La Follette Institute of Public Affairs, UW-Madison, 1992-1995
- M.S.S.W., UW-Madison, 1972; awarded federal full tuition grant; concentrated on organizational change and community development
- B.A., UW-Madison, 1971; graduated with distinction

ROBERTA GASSMAN

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
201 E. Washington Avenue, P. O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946

608-267-1410 (p); 608-266-1784 (f); roberta.gassman@dwd.state.wi.us

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2003-Present **SECRETARY, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Serving in cabinet of Governor Jim Doyle, leads the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and oversees the 2,100-employee agency charged with building and strengthening Wisconsin's workforce. With a budget over \$2 billion, the department provides training and employment assistance to people looking for work; works with employers to fill job openings; helps the disabled secure employment; links youth with jobs; protects and enforces workers' rights; administers Wisconsin's apprenticeship program; pays Unemployment Insurance claims; and administers Workers Compensation. Works to ensure that Governor Doyle's agenda for economic growth, helping families and children to be successful and fostering well-coordinated and cost effective services for the citizens of Wisconsin is met. In her position, serves on the boards of the Wisconsin Technical College System and Forward Wisconsin.

2001-2002 **PRESIDENT, GASSMAN COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS LLC**

Directed complex strategic and external relations initiatives and provided related consulting services to variety of major community institutions including Overture Development Corporation, Meriter Health Services, Inc., Madison Gas & Electric, SSM Health Care of Wisconsin, Inc., Madison Community Foundation, Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation. Managed all media and community relations for new \$100 million Overture Center for the Arts. Successfully facilitated St. Marys Hospital/neighborhood team, including work with city officials, to ensure needed hospital expansion on site. Successfully led community partnership to create new model for delivering women's regional reproductive health services.

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- B.A., UW-Madison, 1971; graduated with distinction



STATE OF WISCONSIN
ETHICS BOARD

James R. Morgan
Chairman
Paul M. Holzem
David L. McRoberts
Joanne R. Orr
Dorothy C. Johnson
Gordon B. Baldwin

On the capitol square at:
44 EAST MIFFLIN STREET, STE 601
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703-2800
phone: 608/266-8123
fax: 608/264-9319
ethics@ethics.state.wi.us
<http://ethics.state.wi.us>

Roth Judd
Director

Nominee: Roberta Gassman
Position: Secretary,
Workforce Development, Dept. of

Statutory Reference:

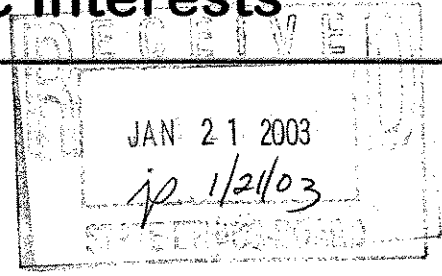
15.22 Department of workforce development; creation. There is created a department of workforce development under the direction and supervision of the secretary of workforce development

Statement of Economic Interests

Filed in 2003 for calendar year 2002

Name: Gassman, Roberta

State position: Workforce Development, Dept. of Secretary
(held or sought)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXPLANATION AND EXCEPTIONS.

•Questions about completing this form? Call (608) 266-8115 •Other inquiries (608) 266-8123 •Attach additional pages as needed

Part A

As of December 31, 2002

1. List STOCKS, BONDS, limited partnerships, Wisconsin governmental securities, and mutual and money market funds you or your family held (minimum \$5,000).

Name of security	Type of security - "✓" one					Amount - "✓" one	
	stock/ option/ futures	bond	limited partnership	Wisconsin governmental security	mutual or money mkt fund	\$50,000 or less	More than \$50,000
See attachment							

2. List BUSINESSES and INCOME-PRODUCING REAL ESTATE in which you or your family had a 10% or greater ownership interest.

Name of business (if any) or business activity, or address of real estate	Municipality	State	If real estate, list County	Describe nature of business
Gassman Communications & Public Affairs, LLC	Madison	WI		Communications and Public Affairs
Cullen Weston Pines & Bach LLP				Legal services

a) For each general partnership or non-Wisconsin entity you listed in Item #2, list the GENERAL PARTNERS or the OFFICERS and DIRECTORS.

Business	Partners, or officers and directors	City	State
Cullen Weston Pines & Bach LLP	Lee Cullen, Lester Pines, Steven Bach, Carol Grob, M. Alison TenBruggencate, Linda Harfst	Madison	WI

b) For each enterprise you listed in Item #2 that is an unincorporated business, a subchapter S corporation, a service corporation (SC), a limited liability company (LLC), a partnership, or income-producing real estate, list BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, and any LOBBYISTS that were CUSTOMERS, CLIENTS, or TENANTS that paid the enterprise \$1,000 or more in calendar year 2002.

Businesses, organizations, lobbyists that were customers, clients, or tenants	City	State
See attachment		

3. List the specific location of WISCONSIN REAL ESTATE in which you or your family had an interest (except your principal residence and real estate whose location you listed in item 2).

LOCATION OF PROPERTY			NATURE OF INTEREST (own, lease, option, easement, land contract)
Street address or fire number	Municipality	County	
None			

**ATTACHMENT TO ROBERTA GASSMAN
STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**

1. List Stocks, Bonds, Limited Partnerships, etc.

All of the following are mutual funds or money market funds held in either 401(k), IRA, SEP-IRA or Deferred Compensation Accounts.

None of these holdings exceeded \$50,000 in value as of December 31, 2002 and January 6, 2003 except the Schwab S&P 500 Index Fund.

ABN/ AMRO Montag & Caldwell Fund
Artisan International Fund
Artisan Mid Cap Value Fund
Calamos Convertible Growth & Income Fund
Causeway International Value Fund
Fidelity VIP II Contrafund
Gabelli Value Fund
ING Fixed Account
Lend Lease U.S. Real Estate Secured Fund
Longleaf Partners International Fund
Marisco Growth Fund
Muhlenkamp Fund
Oakmark Select Fund
Schwab S&P 500 Index Fund
Strong Small Cap Value Fund
Strong Growth Fund
T. Rowe Price Small Cap Fund
Tweedy Browne Global Value Fund
V.P. Aggressive Opportunity Fund

2(b) Clients, Customers, etc.

For Gassman Communications and Public Affairs LLC

Madison Gas & Electric Company
Meriter Health Services, Inc.
Overture Development Corporation
Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation
SSM Healthcare of Wisconsin, Inc.

University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation

Page 2 to Attachment to Roberta Gassman Statement of Economic Interests

2(b)(contd.)

For family members

My husband, Lester Pines, is a partner in the firm of Cullen Weston Pines & Bach LLP. The following is a list of those clients that were businesses, organizations or lobbyists to which the firm provided services in 2002 for which the firm was paid more than \$1,000.

Bodymax Inc.
C.A.T., Inc.
Chibardun Telephone Cooperative
Citizens Utility Board
Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin, Inc.
Community Partnerships, Inc.
Customers First! Coalition
Dane County Farmer's Market, Inc.
Dennis Rassmussen, Inc.
Douglas Stewart Company
DWN Technologies, Inc.
Forward Bag, Inc.
Isthmus Publishing, Inc.
Madison Gas & Electric Company
Madison Healthcare Improvement (MHI, LLC)
Madison Teachers, Inc.
Omega School, Inc.
Orion Lighting & Energy Services
Pegasus Games
Sauk-Plains Plumbing & Pumps, Inc.
Service Employees International Union (SEIU), District 1199
St. Croix Tribe
Tavern League of Wisconsin
Time Warner Telecom
Waterkeepers of Wisconsin
Wisconsin CALLS
Wisconsin Citizen Action
Wisconsin Merchant Federation
Wisconsin Professional Police Association
Wisconsin Youth Company, Inc.

4. Organizations

Downtown Rotary	Madison, WI	Director
Downtown Madison, Inc.	Madison, WI	Director
Madison Jewish Community Council	Madison, WI	Director

5. Organizations Authorized Representation

Please see the answer to Question 2(b) above.

Mona Steele

306 Yosemite Trail, Madison, Wisconsin 53705-2438 608.833.1778 e-mail steele@danenet.wictp.org

Senator Cathy Stepp
Chair, Senate Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing
Room 7 South
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Senator Stepp,

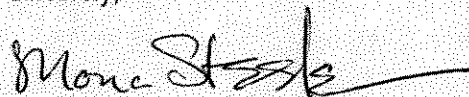
I write to support the confirmation of Roberta Gasman s Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. In the past, I have worked with Ms. Gasman in my capacity as the President of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin and more recently as Chair of the Wisconsin Women's Network.

Ms. Gasman is eminently qualified for this position by her depth of knowledge and experience in the area of human services. She has a deep understanding of the breadth of population served by the department, and works to maximize department programs within today's budget constraints. Ms. Gasman eagerly undertakes complex problems, scrutinizes them and works to achieve effective, successful solutions.

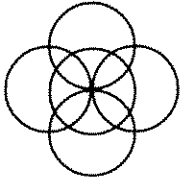
In my work with the two organizations mentioned above, my interaction with Ms Gasman has been an enriching experience. She has been direct and innovative, sharing ideas and potential solutions to problems. I have heard from our members statewide that she has been responsive to issues important to them, particularly, working to help women improve their economic status. She is community oriented and easily works with a broad spectrum of groups.

There are few, if any, in Wisconsin whose qualifications for this position compare to those of Roberta Gasman. I urge your confirmation of her as Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development.

Sincerely,



Mona Steele



WAISMAN CENTER

University of Wisconsin-Madison
1500 Highland Avenue--Room T201
Madison, WI 53705-2280

Director's Office: (608) 263-5940
FAX: (608) 263-3300
<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/>

January 13, 2004

Senator Cathy Stepp
Chair, Senate Committee on Economic Development,
Job Creation, and Housing
Room 7 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Stepp:

I am honored to be here to support the confirmation of Roberta Gassman for the position of Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development for the State of Wisconsin. I believe I am well-qualified to comment on Ms. Gassman's qualifications for this important position, as I have known her for more than 35 years. I also have worked closely with her since she assumed the position of Secretary. Indeed, during the short period of time since she has been in this position, she has had an important positive influence on the work of the Waisman Center.

By way of background, I am the director of the Waisman Center, one of the largest multidisciplinary research centers of the UW-Madison. Our center's mission is to advance knowledge about child development, developmental disabilities, and neurodegenerative diseases. We strive to generate new knowledge to support the healthy development of children and their families, and when child development is compromised, to develop interventions to limit disability. We have made a significant investment in biomedical research to understand the causes, consequences, and cures for developmental disabilities (such as autism and Down syndrome) and neurodegenerative disorders (such as Parkinson's Disease). We are motivated by the Wisconsin Idea to collaborate with the State of Wisconsin, county and local governments, and community partners to translate the knowledge gained in our research laboratories into practical outcomes that can affect the lives of children and adults with disabilities in Wisconsin and their families.

Examples of these activities include our collaboration with the Madison Metropolitan School District to develop a pilot 4-year old kindergarten program, our creation of a model job training program for people with disabilities (known as the Healthy and Ready to Work program), our provision of early intervention services for children with disabilities in the city of Madison, and our statewide leadership role in early education programs for vulnerable children in Wisconsin.

During the past two years, Secretary Tommy Thompson has visited the Waisman Center twice and I accompanied him on a biotechnology mission to Ireland. Secretary Thompson's interest in and support of our center, beginning when he was Governor and also evident during his current role as DHHS Secretary, has continued in the present state administration, and with leadership provided by Roberta Gassman.

One of the primary reasons why I believe that Roberta Gassman is extremely well-qualified for the position of Secretary of Workforce Development is her broad and deep knowledge of the state of Wisconsin – its communities, its county and city governments, its non-profit sector, as well as its business environment. She is a great public servant, which I assume you know, so I'd like to use my time here today to describe how she has made an important contribution to the people served by the Waisman Center – people with disabilities and their families.

Since Roberta Gassman assumed her present position in the Governor's cabinet, we have seen a series of impressive achievements at the Department of Workforce Development. These accomplishments have had a palpable impact on UW-Madison and Waisman Center initiatives. With respect to the Waisman Center's commitment to fostering biomedical research, the support that Secretary Gassman and her department have obtained from the US Department of Labor, and the significant matching funds they have leveraged from the Wisconsin business community, are critically important to creating a climate in Wisconsin in which biomedical research and the biotechnology industry can flourish. With respect to the Waisman Center's commitment to supporting the healthy development of children and their families, Secretary Gassman's commitment to providing quality child care represents an investment in our state's most important future resource. With respect to the Waisman Center's commitment to assisting people with disabilities to lead maximally productive lives, the addition of 3700 people with disabilities to the labor force since Secretary Gassman's appointment is particularly impressive and unprecedented.

Let me say a bit more about the last of these issues. As you know, after years of being housed in state and county institutions, individuals with disabilities are now living much more productive and satisfying lives in the community. However, only 31% of those with disabilities are employed. Many do not graduate from high school, enter into employment, or pursue postsecondary education. In order to address these challenges, we need leaders like Secretary Gassman because she seriously and creatively considers the role that our state can play to assist families and to assure that all children develop optimally and live and work successfully in the community.

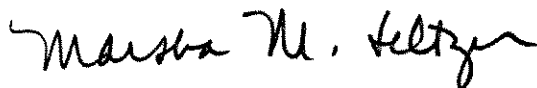
The Waisman Center recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Over 300 members of the community, university faculty, and students participated in a day-long series of events focused on promoting optimal child development, responding to federal research initiatives on children and disabilities, and advancing research discoveries on developmental and neurodegenerative disorders. Among the presenters that day were Dr. Duane Alexander, director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Dr. Tom Insel, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, the

Chancellor of the UW-Madison John Wiley, the Dean of the UW-Madison Graduate School Martin Cadwallader, and Secretary Roberta Gassman representing Governor Doyle. In this context of national scientific and University leadership, Secretary Gassman delivered a critically important message, namely that the State of Wisconsin is committed to working in partnership with the University of Wisconsin to ensure mobilization of resources to meet our common goals. We are extremely grateful to her for her contributions that day and every day on behalf of children, people with disabilities, and the future of the State of Wisconsin.

She is one of a handful of people in our generation who have changed the political and social landscape of the State of Wisconsin, the city of Madison, and Dane County. Because of her tireless efforts, we all have reaped the benefits of an enriched social and cultural climate, a sense of civic pride, and a stronger economic environment. In the private sector, she has contributed to building and strengthening the infrastructure of our communities by directing resources to be invested in our cities, our schools, our hospitals, our neighborhoods, and our cultural institutions. In the public sector, she has provided a liaison with the business community, led strategic planning initiatives, and managed policy development activities. All of these challenges require a high level of sophistication, deep knowledge about a wide range of issues, the ability to manage large staffs, and interpersonal talent. Roberta Gassman has all of these qualities -- in droves.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to today's confirmation hearings. I consider myself fortunate to live and work in a state in which Secretary Gassman is a key member of the leadership team.

Sincerely,



Marsha Mailick Seltzer, Ph.D.
Professor
Director, Waisman Center
UW-Madison



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF DANE COUNTY, INC.

The Positive Place For Kids

January 13, 2004

OFFICERS

Mary Burke
President

Joe Hildebrandt
Vice President

Michael Greenhalgh
Treasurer

Steve Sparks
Secretary

Senator Cathy Stepp
Chair, Senate Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and
Housing
Room 7 South
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Senator Stepp:

BOARD MEMBERS

- Peter Brey
- Elaine Davis
- Dennis Domack
- Dave Florin
- Linda Franklin
- Coralia Harn
- Isadore Knox
- Gordon Meicher
- Bruce Neviasser
- Judy Pyle
- Larry Sain
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- Al Toon
- Jeff Ver Voort
- Michael Wieden
- Richard Williams
- Yolanda Woodman
- Jeanan Yasiri

It is an honor and a privilege to write this letter of support for Ms. Roberta Gassman for the appointment of Secretary of the Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development. Ms Gassman is an outstanding individual with great leadership qualities. She has an extended record of creating the most leadership teams at the Department of Workforce Development.

I have known Ms. Gassman for 20 years, and I am familiar with her strong commitment to equal rights and justice for all groups in Wisconsin. She is a committed supporter of strengthening the equal rights division and improving lives in Wisconsin. She is an ardent supporter of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County and has committed her life to issues of diversity. As a social worker, I've witness firsthand the impact she has had on families in Wisconsin by serving on many boards of directors.

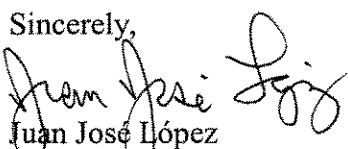
She is very familiar with the way government works at all levels and is an excellent negotiator. I know she is committed to creating better jobs in Wisconsin. As a member of the Board of Directors of the United Migrant Opportunity Services in Milwaukee, she and her staff worked diligently to maintain and improve the Wisconsin W2 program. I'm familiar with the Department accomplishments is 2003 under her leadership and know that she will continue to improve the department in 2004.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Juan José López

Secretary Roberta Gassman should be confirmed as the Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development and without reservation I support her confirmation.

Should you need additional information please feel free to contact me directly at (608) 257-2606.

Sincerely,

Juan José López
Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens, through structured programs in a safe environment.



A United Way Agency



Department of Workforce Development
Office of the Secretary
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
e-mail: dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Jim Doyle, Governor
Roberta Gassman, Secretary

TESTIMONY OF SECRETARY ROBERTA GASSMAN
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
To the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing
January 13, 2004

Good morning and I thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today as you consider my confirmation as Governor Jim Doyle's Cabinet Secretary for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

I have already made available for you copies of my resume and citizen letters that have been sent on behalf of my confirmation. I will also leave you with a copy of my remarks.

In my comments I will give you information about my background and address the organization of the department and its mission, our achievements over the last year and my goals for 2004 and the years ahead. I, of course, would also be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.

I thank you and those who are supporting my confirmation today for this generous commitment of time.

ABOUT MY BACKGROUND

Who I am today, my values and my skills, as with all of us, have very much been shaped by my family, their life experiences, and the educational, community and professional opportunities that I have had.

My grandparents came to this country in the late 1800's and early 1900's to escape religious persecution. They had little of economic means, one grandfather a baker and the other a tailor, but they brought with them a culture rich in commitment to family, faith, education and hard work.

America gave them opportunity and as all of their relatives perished in Europe, they treasured the democracy that they experienced in this country.

Their children, my parents, did not go to college, they worked long hours as owners of a small business and I grew up outside of Chicago, in Evanston, Illinois. A child of this family and the 1960's, I valued public service, making a difference and fighting the persecution of any people.

This led me to Wisconsin in 1966 to earn my BA and Master's Degree in social work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I was dedicated to community service. I met my husband, Lester Pines, as a volunteer at a local neighborhood center. We decided to stay in Wisconsin, a state we love very much, and we raised our two daughters here where they flourished. One, now married, is a doctoral student in psychology and the other is a law student.

I have been very fortunate to have had some wonderful work and community leadership opportunities. As a social worker, business owner, bank vice president, top aide to a mayor, a county executive and a governor, and a community volunteer, I have learned to work effectively with all kinds of people, with different points of view, to build my community and our state. I truly believe that we are most effective when we build bridges, when we cross party lines and sectors to collaborate and make a difference. I like leading complex systems and initiatives, in partnership with others, to achieve common goals.

I have appreciated, in my paid work and as a volunteer, advancing major civic projects, supporting our public schools and the arts and working to improve our overall quality of life.

I was deeply honored when Governor Jim Doyle asked me to lead the Department of Workforce Development over a year ago. This department advances so much of what I truly believe in - investing in people, expanding their opportunities, building our state. It has been a privilege to work with the Governor, the Legislature, my colleagues in the administration, so many dedicated employees in DWD and wonderful people, partners and organizations all over this state.

I have enjoyed helping DWD achieve its mission and I value its strong links to Governor Doyle's top goals for our state - creating more and better jobs, helping children and families and making government more efficient.

Let me give you a bit of background about our department.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development is the state agency charged with building and strengthening Wisconsin's workforce.

- In the Equal Rights Division we resolve discrimination complaints;
- In the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, we help people with disabilities connect to the workplace;
- In the Unemployment Insurance Division, we provide temporary assistance for people who have become unemployed;
- In the Workers Compensation Division we assist people who have been injured on the job;

- In the Division of Workforce Solutions, we promote the economic self-sufficiency of families through our W-2, dislocated worker, childcare, child support, employment and training, refugee services and other programs; and
- In the Administrative Services Division, we support these complex efforts.

We carry out this mission with about 2,100 employees statewide and a budget of approximately \$2 billion. We work closely with W-2 agencies, Workforce Development Boards, job centers, local communities, technical college and university partners and many different community groups. I value meeting with organizations all around the state and have been to every corner of Wisconsin, from Lancaster to Green Bay and from Milwaukee to Superior. Some high points have included being the commencement speaker at UW-Eau Claire, seeing a new technology training facility under construction at Gateway Technical College, meeting W-2 workers successfully employed in Milwaukee, visiting with workforce development leaders in the Northwoods and learning about innovative employers in the Fox Valley.

It has been a challenging year for DWD, given our national and state economies, with more people needing services within an environment of tighter resources. But we have accomplished much already over the last year and I look forward to more successes in the future. Let me share some of these highlights with you.

2003 – A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR DWD

Looking back on 2003, I feel very proud that the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development has a solid record of accomplishments.

You, the people you represent, as well as all of Wisconsin's citizens, can take pride in DWD's work to create more and better jobs, help children and families, and save taxpayer dollars by making government more efficient.

I'd like to share with you a few of our 2003 achievements of which I feel most proud.

Creating More and Better Jobs

- This past year DWD captured nearly \$44 million in U.S. Department of Labor funds to train dislocated workers for new jobs in areas such as health care and computer technology. For example, in the Fox River Valley, DWD is using these U.S. Department of Labor funds to train dislocated paper workers for new jobs in health care occupations.
- We also targeted \$1.5 million in federal job training funds to the manufacturing sector, setting the stage for Governor Doyle's new \$10 million training fund initiative. As the Governor directed in "Grow Wisconsin," we are now distributing our training funds more strategically. We are targeting funds to economic regions and clusters, where area manufacturing businesses need workers with new job skills so these companies can compete successfully in a global economy.

January 13, 2004

- This was also a year in which DWD won a \$10.3 million TANF bonus, based on our strong performance, to help even more W-2 people become self-sufficient.
- Also in W-2, we initiated a new assessment program, the Barrier Screening Tool, to ensure that we most effectively help W-2 participants successfully connect with work.
- To better help Unemployment Insurance recipients more quickly re-enter the workforce, we won a new U.S. Department of Labor \$600,000 grant to pilot a new program.
- In the area of helping people with disabilities more successfully connect with work, I'm especially pleased that we placed a record 3,700 disabled people in jobs where they will earn an estimated \$58 million a year, adding to our economy and tax base.
- We also won a \$500,000 U.S. Department of Labor performance award, the first in 10 years, for job placement programs serving the disabled and we received a new \$503,360 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for a pilot to help even more disabled individuals find jobs.
- I was honored to play a lead role in Governor Doyle's manufacturing summit in Milwaukee last fall, as well as in many of Governor Doyle's Economic Roundtable sessions all over Wisconsin last summer.
- We are already quite pleased with our new Office of Economic Advisors, headed up by Terry Ludeman, DWD's chief labor economist, and completely funded within existing resources. This office will help us commit our precious resources more strategically in the future, where they can also assist us in addressing future labor shortages.
- It was very important to Southwestern Wisconsin, in particular, when we won a new \$1.2 million U.S. Department of Labor grant to train dislocated farm workers in new skills.
- I'm very grateful that over 30 of our state's top health care leaders, representing labor, the health care industry and educational institutions, agreed to serve on DWD's new Select Committee on Health Care Workforce Development which I appointed last fall. Working in four action teams, the committee is developing concrete strategies we can start using right away to build this workforce which is so important to our state's future.

- And even though we just found out that we were not successful in receiving a new \$3 million U.S. Department of Labor grant for high technology workers, we did mount an aggressive collaborative effort to bring those new federal dollars to Wisconsin. Our package included a pledge from Wisconsin firms to provide matching funds of \$11.7 million and we had outstanding cooperation from the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and the Wisconsin Technology Council, our partners, in putting our proposal together. We will apply for this funding again and I particularly thank Senators Stepp, Roessler and Kanavas for the helpful support letters to Secretary Chao that they provided.

Helping Children and Families

In meeting the needs of children and families, DWD also had major gains this past year.

- We won a \$16 million performance award for our success in collecting child support, an effort that was virtually unmatched by other states.
- We increased child support collections in Wisconsin by \$10 million this past year. These collections included \$5.6 million after placing liens on the property of delinquent payers.
- I am proud to say that in 2003, in spite of our budget pressures, we provided child care to more Wisconsin children and families. Thanks to the leadership of Senator Moore and others on the Joint Committee on Finance, the number of children we served increased 14% to 51,041.
- Finally, in this area, I am especially proud that DWD was selected by the prestigious Policy Academy of the National Governor's Association for a special new opportunity. Wisconsin was one of only six states just selected to participate in a new national effort to develop comprehensive strategies for helping low-income working families and children through better integrated service delivery. We will involve statewide elected officials, and community, business and foundation leaders in this project and we were thrilled to learn that our proposal was ranked first in the country.

Making Government More Efficient and Saving Taxpayer Dollars

DWD also had an exemplary record in 2003 to save taxpayer dollars and make government more efficient. I am glad to highlight some of our top successes.

- We significantly reduced administrative overhead in W-2, achieving a savings of over \$6 million, while working to protect benefits for participants.

- Under Governor Doyle's leadership, we seized the initiative to streamline government with remarkable results. With less staff and supplies, our Equal Rights Division accepted over 300 new cases when the Personnel Commission was merged into our department. Even so, the Equal Rights Division still closed more cases overall, reduced its backlog and won more dollars for workers.
- DWD also paid a record \$1.2 billion plus in Unemployment Insurance claims this past year. We exceeded the federal standards for resolving claims, even in the face of an unprecedented increase in claims. And to boost our efficiency even more, we are now accepting benefits applications via the Internet.
- Throughout our department in 2003, we cut administrative services overall to reduce the state deficit and free resources for services. One example of this was our reduction of information technology contractor costs by \$6.5 million, or 16%, as we brought important child support information systems work in house.

I hope these examples give you a flavor of why 2003 was a tremendously productive year for the Department of Workforce Development.

2004 AND BEYOND – AN AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR DWD

Now, I'd briefly like to leave you with my goals for DWD in 2004 and the years ahead.

Creating More and Better Jobs In 2004 and Beyond

- I am committed to working with Governor Doyle, Senator Leibham, Representative Wieckert and other members of the Legislature to advance legislation to create a new \$10 million job training fund. This will be a powerful tool that Wisconsin needs to compete with other states on the economic front. These dollars will be used strategically. Companies that will either create significant numbers of new, high paying jobs, or companies that need to introduce new technologies to maintain their workforce and succeed in today's competitive world economy will qualify for free job training funds.
- I also look forward to securing an additional \$1.5 million to fully fund Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship Program. This can help prepare more young people for tomorrow's jobs.
- I also look forward to the work that our new Minimum Wage Advisory Council will do to address the low wages of 130,000 to 160,000 workers, primarily women, earning less than \$11,000 a year. This council will hold its first meeting this afternoon and after developing recommendations by this spring, we will go through the Legislature's administrative rules process.

- I am very dedicated to continuing to work on creative ways to help W-2 participants gain valuable work experience, enter the workforce and become economically self-sufficient. Even though the Governor vetoed the Joint Finance Committee's recent action on his transitional jobs program, I am working closely with Representative Mike Huebsch, statewide W-2 agency leaders and others to craft a bi-partisan, cost-effective compromise option for proceeding with a "real pay for real work" demonstration effort, with outside research funding, to help more W-2 participants achieve economic self-sufficiency in the workplace. I particularly thank Senator Roessler for her involvement in this effort and I am hopeful that we can achieve a win/win strategy for meeting this challenge.
- Terry Ludeman and his Office of Economic Advisors are at work developing an early warning system so we can intervene before it's too late, to help our at-risk businesses.

Helping Children and Families in 2004 and Beyond

DWD, in collaboration with the Departments of Corrections, Health and Family Services, Public Instruction and others, plans to initiate inter-agency pilots with private foundation support to better serve low-income children.

- I hope to also launch some new child support collection strategies to increase already successful child support collection results even more.
- Very significantly, given the commitment of Governor Doyle to children and especially early education, I want to take steps to strengthen our child care system to ensure that more children are served in quality child care settings. I, like the Governor, am committed to seeing that all children grow up safe, healthy and ready to succeed in school and beyond.

Making Government More Efficient and Saving Taxpayer Dollars in 2004 and Beyond

To save taxpayer dollars and make government more efficient, DWD will continue our hard work to streamline and cut costs wherever we can.

- We will use technology to enhance our services and our savings. We will expand our use of the Internet and electronic filing options for our various department processes.
- We will collaborate with other state and local units of government to trim costs through more innovative purchasing and other practices.

IN CONCLUSION

At the Department of Workforce Development, we take our responsibilities seriously. We are working to do whatever we can to provide opportunities and improve the lives of Wisconsin citizens.

The need may be that of a parent, seeking the valuable work experience that can lead to a job with a living wage. Or the need may be that of a cluster of industries seeking funds to train workers in new skills, enabling Wisconsin to compete globally.

This is my charge as Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development. I am honored by the confidence Governor Doyle has expressed in me and I look forward to working further with the Governor, the Legislature and all of my talented and hard-working colleagues at DWD in 2004 and the years ahead.

Just as we have accomplished a great deal together in only one year, we still have much work ahead. With Senate confirmation, we can move forward to see that the needs of children, families, business and labor can be fairly and effectively addressed in 2004 and beyond.

I thank you for this opportunity to address the committee. I am here to answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you very much.

Brown

January 13, 2003

Dear Senate Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing Members,

The Senate Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing will vote by paper ballot on the following Executive Appointments, all of which were unanimously recommended for confirmation last session.

Dysland, Rebecca J., of Milwaukee, as a member of the Real Estate Board, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2005.

- 12-19-01, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 02-20-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye X No

Fiedler, Sharon R., of Neenah, as a member of the Real Estate Appraisers Board, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2006.

- 08-29-01, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 11-01-01, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye X No

Franklin, LaMarr J., of Glendale, as a member of the Real Estate Appraisers Board, to serve for the term ending May 1, 2005.

- 08-29-01, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 11-01-01, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye X No

Kollmansberger, Richard A., of Oconomowoc, as a member of the Real Estate Board, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2006.

- 01-16-02, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 02-20-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye X No ___

Kowbel, Mark P., of Racine, as a member of the Real Estate Appraisers Board, to serve for the interim term ending May 1, 2004.

- 08-29-01, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 11-01-01, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye X No ___

Mouw, Edward W., of Rhinelander, as a member of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, to serve for the term ending January 1, 2004.

- 01-12-01, Continued from the 1999 session.
- 12-19-01, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 6, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye X No ___

Paczkowski, Dale R., of Fond du Lac, as a member of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, to serve for the interim term ending July 1, 2005.

- 01-16-02, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 03-08-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye X No ___

Rusch, James E., of New Richmond, as a member of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2006.

- 01-16-02, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 03-08-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye X No

Sobczak, Nancy L., of Racine, as a member of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2006.

- 01-16-02, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 03-08-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye X No



Committee Member Signature

Please indicate your vote on the above Executive Appointments, sign this ballot and return to my office by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, January 17, 2003**.

Sincerely,

Cathy Stepp
State Senator
21st Senate District

Meyer

January 13, 2003

Dear Senate Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing Members,

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- 02-20-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye No

Fiedler, Sharon R., of Neenah, as a member of the Real Estate Appraisers Board, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2006.

- 08-29-01, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 11-01-01, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye No

Franklin, LaMarr J., of Glendale, as a member of the Real Estate Appraisers Board, to serve for the term ending May 1, 2005.

- 08-29-01, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 11-01-01, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye No

Kollmansberger, Richard A., of Oconomowoc, as a member of the Real Estate Board, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2006.

- 01-16-02, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 02-20-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye No

Kowbel, Mark P., of Racine, as a member of the Real Estate Appraisers Board, to serve for the interim term ending May 1, 2004.

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Confirmation: Aye No

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Confirmation: Aye No

Sobczak, Nancy L., of Racine, as a member of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2006.

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Confirmation: Aye No

Mark Meyer
Committee Member Signature

Please indicate your vote on the above Executive Appointments, sign this ballot and return to my office by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, January 17, 2003**.

Sincerely,

Cathy Stepp
State Senator
21st Senate District

January 13, 2003

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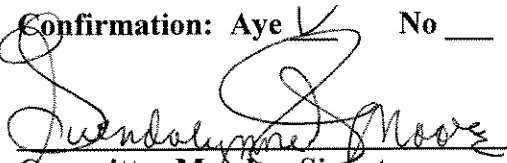
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Confirmation: Aye No


Committee Member Signature

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Sincerely,

Cathy Stepp
State Senator
21st Senate District

Roesler

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- 01-16-02, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 02-20-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye No

Kowbel, Mark P., of Racine, as a member of the Real Estate Appraisers Board, to serve for the interim term ending May 1, 2004.

- 08-29-01, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 11-01-01, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye No

Mouw, Edward W., of Rhinelander, as a member of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, to serve for the term ending January 1, 2004.

- 01-12-01, Continued from the 1999 session.
- 12-19-01, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 6, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye No

Paczkowski, Dale R., of Fond du Lac, as a member of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, to serve for the interim term ending July 1, 2005.

- 01-16-02, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 03-08-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye No

Rusch, James E., of New Richmond, as a member of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2006.

- 01-16-02, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 03-08-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye No

Sobczak, Nancy L., of Racine, as a member of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, to serve for the term ending July 1, 2006.

- 01-16-02, Read and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations
- 03-08-02, Report confirmation recommended by committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations, **Ayes 7, Noes 0**

Confirmation: Aye No



Committee Member Signature

Please indicate your vote on the above Executive Appointments, sign this ballot and return to my office by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, January 17, 2003.**

Sincerely,

Cathy Stepp
State Senator
21st Senate District

Kiel

	Confirmation Motion	Seconded By	Aye	Nay
Senator Stepp	X			
Senator Roessler		X		
Senator Brown				
Senator Moore				
Senator Meyer				

01-28-2003

Ohberg

	Confirmation Motion	Seconded By	Aye	Nay
Senator Stepp	X			
Senator Roessler				
Senator Brown		X		
Senator Moore				
Senator Meyer				

01-28-2003

Payne

	Confirmation Motion	Seconded By	Aye	Nay
Senator Stepp	X			
Senator Roessler				
Senator Brown				
Senator Moore		X		
Senator Meyer				

01-28-2003

Watts

	Confirmation Motion	Seconded By	Aye	Nay
Senator Stepp	X		X	
Senator Roessler		X	X	
Senator Brown			X	
Senator Moore			X	
Senator Meyer			X	

01-28-2003

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BELCITY COLLEGE
CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY
CARROLL COLLEGE
CARTHAGE COLLEGE
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
EDGEWOOD COLLEGE
LAKE LAND COLLEGE
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
MARIAN COLLEGE




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COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN
MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
MOUNT MARY COLLEGE
NORTHLAND COLLEGE
RIPON COLLEGE
ST. NORBERT COLLEGE
SILVER LAKE COLLEGE
VITERBO UNIVERSITY
WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 12, 2003

To: Jay Risch, Committee Clerk
Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing

From: Paul Nelson 
Vice President for Public Policy

Subject: 6/13/03 Confirmation hearing – Cory Nettles

Please distribute to Chairperson Stepp and members of the committee the attached letter in support of the confirmation of Cory Nettles as Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

PAUL M. NELSON
Vice President for Public Policy

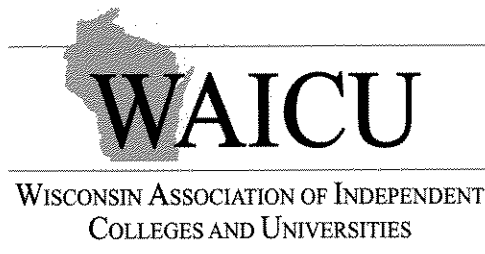


WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

122 W. Washington Avenue, Suite 700
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2718
www.waicuweb.org

608.256.7761 • CELL 608.695.1593
FAX 608.256.7065
paul.nelson@waicuweb.org

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VITERBO UNIVERSITY
WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

June 12, 2003

The Honorable Cathy Stepp, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Chairperson Stepp and Members of the Committee:

I wanted to voice my support for the confirmation of Mr. Cory Nettles as Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

As you know, I worked in economic development and international trade in the administrations of five Wisconsin governors (Lucey, Schreiber, Dreyfus, Earl, and Thompson). In my current post as President of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and as a member of the boards of the Wisconsin Technology Council and Forward Wisconsin, Inc., I continue to work to advance Wisconsin's knowledge economy.

I have had opportunities to work with Secretary Nettles and found him to be accessible and possessed of a keen understanding of what economic development is all about. The State of Wisconsin is well served by this appointment.

Sincerely,

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President

c: Members, Senate Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation and Housing



Wisconsin Economic Development Association Inc.

To: Members, Senate Committee on Economic Development
From: WEDA Board of Directors
Jim Hough, Legislative Director
Date: June 13, 2003
Re: **Support of Cory Nettles Confirmation**

The Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) strongly endorses the confirmation of Cory Nettles as Secretary of Commerce for the State of Wisconsin.

WEDA and Mr. Nettles have had numerous meetings in which we have discussed policies and strategies relating to promoting growth as well as job and business creation and retention in the State of Wisconsin. We are extremely impressed with his grasp of the key issues and concerns; his ability to articulate both challenges and solutions; and, his outreach to others in developing solutions to complex issues.

Mr. Nettles is intelligent, articulate and a visionary. His professional and community contributions have been exemplary. We anticipate that Secretary Nettles will be a significant partner with the State Legislature and the economic development community as we move forward to improve the economic climate of Wisconsin.

We respectfully urge that this committee and the full Senate move expeditiously in confirming Cory Nettles as Department of Commerce Secretary.

Thank you.

[WEDA is a statewide association of approximately 500 professionals dedicated to fostering economic development in the state of Wisconsin.]