

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

November 14, 2008

Representative Pat Strachota
Chair, Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce
Joint Legislative Council
One East Main Street, Suite 401
P.O. Box 2536
Madison, WI 53701-2536

Dear Representative Strachota:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your request to obtain a summary of workforce development items contained in the Department of Workforce Development's 2009-11 Biennial Budget Request. I very much appreciate your interest and leadership in this important topic and welcome your committee's recommendations as they look at the overall education and employment and training system. You can find detailed information related to our requests on our Internet Web site at: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/biennial/2009-2011.pdf>.

As I highlighted to your committee at their first meeting, much of DWD's employment and training programs are guided by federal grant requirements and do not require state legislative action or biennial budget consideration. Much of our strategic direction is guided by federal 5 year plans that require local and state feedback with strong guidance by the Governor in consultation with Governor Doyle's Council on Workforce Investment (CWI).

In the face of a severe national economic downturn, it is more important than ever for Wisconsin to invest in our workforce and demand occupations. We are currently looking for innovative ways to address the needs of workers and employers and this remains a high priority for Governor Doyle. I would be pleased to work with you and other legislative leaders on any proposals requiring legislative approval that relate to workforce development.

Once again, thank-you for your interest in our programs. Please contact me or DWD's Executive Assistant, Hector Colon, at 608-266-2284 if you have any further questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberta Gassman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roberta Gassman
Secretary

cc: Hector Colon, DWD Executive Assistant