



2001 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 85

January 16, 2002 - Introduced by Representatives JENSEN, PETROWSKI, McCORMICK, KESTELL, RHOADES, WALKER, GUNDERSON, HUEBSCH, STONE, MILLER, BALOW, JESKEWITZ, LIPPERT, BIES, HAHN, LADWIG, KRAWCZYK, OLSEN, PETTIS, MUSSER, M. LEHMAN, URBAN, PLOUFF, HUNDERTMARK, STARZYK, TURNER, OWENS, RILEY, J. LEHMAN, PLALE, LASSA and VRAKAS, cosponsored by Senators PANZER, ZIEN, S. FITZGERALD, ROSENZWEIG, DARLING, KANAVAS, BRESKE, RISSER, WELCH, GROBSCHMIDT, HUELSMAN and ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** congratulating Brenda J. Blanchard for her long-term service to the
2 citizens of Wisconsin and wishing her well in her future endeavors.

3 Whereas, Brenda Blanchard's last day as secretary of the Wisconsin
4 Department of Commerce was August 31, 2001; and

5 Whereas, Brenda Blanchard was appointed by Governor Tommy G. Thompson
6 on December 30, 1998, and by Governor Scott McCallum on February 12, 2001, as
7 secretary of the Department of Commerce, which has 474 employees and a budget
8 totaling \$193,000,000; and

9 Whereas, as secretary, Ms. Blanchard worked with the governor and legislature
10 to focus the state's economic development policies on the creation of high-paying jobs
11 and increased private investment with the establishment of the Wisconsin
12 Technology and Entrepreneurs Council, the creation of the Office of Science and
13 Technology, the development of the Certified Capital Company Program, and various
14 international trade and venture capital missions; and

1 Whereas, during her time as secretary, Ms. Blanchard approved nearly 1,800
2 Department of Commerce grant and loan awards for business and community
3 projects that created and retained more than 65,000 jobs and leveraged over
4 \$2,500,000,000 in additional funds; and

5 Whereas, as secretary, she established a partnership with the University of
6 Wisconsin System Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), through which
7 the Department of Commerce would fund 75% of the costs to entrepreneurs of taking
8 University of Wisconsin System SBDC courses to guide them through the
9 development of their own business plans, and approved more than 330 awards in the
10 program's first year of operation; and

11 Whereas, under Ms. Blanchard's leadership as secretary, the Department of
12 Commerce assumed responsibility for low-risk and medium-risk petroleum
13 contaminated sites (65% of the total) and streamlined procedures for the closure of
14 these sites; and

15 Whereas, as secretary, she successfully led the Department of Commerce in
16 resolving contentious issues such as the promulgation of the revised Septic System
17 Code and model Building and Fire Code; and

18 Whereas, Brenda Blanchard served from 1996 to 1998 as the president of
19 Forward Wisconsin, Inc., the state's business attraction organization responsible for
20 marketing outside Wisconsin to attract new businesses, jobs, and investment to this
21 state; and

22 Whereas, she was the executive assistant at the Wisconsin Department of
23 Workforce Development from 1995 to 1996, focusing on private sector support for the
24 state's new comprehensive employment and training system and support for welfare
25 reform in Wisconsin; and

