

Wisconsin Good Jobs News

For Immediate Release

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Thursday, September 23, 2004

County Supervisors Unveil Resolution to Protect Wisconsin Jobs

Madison, WI – Dane County Board Supervisors joined state legislative, business, and union leaders today to introduce a resolution to protect Wisconsin jobs from overseas contracting or offshoring. In the last legislative session, the Wisconsin State Legislature considered the “American Jobs Act,” 2003 Senate Bill 389 requiring all contractual services purchased by executive branch agencies to be performed within the United States. Even though the legislative session ended before this bill came to a vote, concerns remain regarding outsourcing of contractual services to companies located in other countries.

“We should make sure that taxpayer money is used to protect jobs here in Wisconsin and Dane County, not ship them overseas,” said Supervisor Brett Hulsey, the lead sponsor.

In the past three years, 1.2 million U.S. jobs have been outsourced or moved offshore. Here in Wisconsin, between March 2001 and January 2004, the state lost over 75,000 manufacturing jobs due overseas offshoring and other issues. Economists predict 3.3 million more jobs will leave the U.S. in the next decade.

“The Rock County Board passed a resolution supporting the American Jobs Act in February, and now the Dane County Board has an opportunity to do so,” said State Senator Judy Robson, sponsor of the bill. “I welcome the support of county supervisors across the state in sending a message to state legislators that when tax dollars are used for state services, tax dollars should employ people here at home. Government should not contribute to the loss of American jobs to cheap foreign labor.”

An unusual coalition of business and labor leaders support this effort.

“My company and I support legislation that prohibits offshoring not only to protect our jobs and economy, but also to protect the public we serve, our national security, and our way of life,” Frederick J. Halfen, Regional Vice President for Ayres Associates, a Wisconsin based engineering and architecture firm.

“It makes no sense to spend taxpayer dollars shipping jobs to India when we have fine, qualified public employees here to do the work,” said Tim Sullivan, AFSCME Council 40 Executive board member.

“The economic downturn of the last several years proves the need to keep good paying jobs here at home,” said Southside Madison Supervisor Don Eggert. “Our own government should not contribute to the loss of good, taxpaying, family supporting jobs.”

The Department of Labor Certified Trade-Related Job Loss shows Dane County lost 586 jobs to offshoring since 2003. Here are some examples of Dane County companies impacted by job offshoring since 2003, according to Public Citizen, www.citizen.org/trade/forms/taa_info.cfm.

More

Company	City	State	PRODUCT	Claimants	Est. workers	Cause	Decision Date
General Binding Corp.	DeForest	WI	Laminators	Workers	17	Increased company imports	02/25/2003
Marshall Erdman and Associates	Waunakee	WI	Furniture and Cabinetry	UBCJA	84	Increased company imports	03/10/2003
PolyOne Corporation	DeForest	WI	Elastomers	Comp.	95	Certified Upstream	01/14/2004
Rayovac Corp	Fennimore	WI	Batteries	Workers	99	Increased company imports	11/20/2003
Rayovac Corporation	Madison	WI	Alkaline Batteries Assorted Packaging	Company	145	Increased company imports	01/27/2003
Rayovac Corporation	Middleton	WI	Alkaline Batteries	Company	146	Increased company imports	01/27/2003
TOTAL					586		

OPPOSING OFFSHORE CONTRACTING BY THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

In the last legislative session, the Wisconsin State Legislature considered "The America Jobs Act," 2003 Senate Bill 389 regarding requiring all contractual services purchased by executive branch agencies to be performed within the United States. Even though the legislative session ended before this bill came to a vote, concerns remain regarding overseas contractual services.

In the past three years, 1.2 million U.S. jobs have been outsourced. Here in Wisconsin, between March 2001 and January 2004, the state lost over 75,000 manufacturing jobs due to issues including moving some offshore and to other countries. Economists predict 3.3 million more jobs will leave the U.S. in the next decade.

Wisconsin state government in 1999, (the most recent year for which data is available), the state contracted for \$421 million worth of services. The Department of Administration does not track how many of those contracts employ people located in other countries.

However, perhaps the most publicized example of offshoring in Wisconsin is the use of a call center in India to address questions of people using the Wisconsin Quest card, the electronic debit card that replaced paper food stamps. Last December, CNN business reporter Lou Dobbs noted that the Department of Workforce Development, the same department in charge of finding work for unemployed residents of the state of Wisconsin, outsourced these jobs to India.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors opposes offshoring of contractual services by the State of Wisconsin and urges Governor Doyle to direct the executive branch agencies to purchase only contractual services performed within the United States, unless the service cannot be obtained within the United States.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Jim Doyle, Department of

Administration Secretary Marotta and the members of the Dane County legislative delegation.

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