



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WSTA Applauds Telecommuter Forward! Community Certification

Madison – The Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association (WSTA) applauds today's action by Governor Scott Walker to sign Assembly Bill 917. WSTA strongly supports the new law, which creates the first-in-the-nation Telecommuter Forward! Community certification.

“We thank Governor Walker for signing this bill into law and recognize the innovation and leadership of the authors; Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Representative Romaine Quinn (R-Barron),” said Bill Esbeck, WSTA executive director. “WSTA members are eager to partner with Telecommuter Forward! communities to promote telecommuting, create job opportunities and stimulate economic activity.”

The new law creates a path for Wisconsin cities, villages, towns and counties to seek certification from the Public Service Commission. Communities can pursue Telecommuter Forward! status by adopting a resolution that includes a statement of support and commitment to promote telecommuting. The resolution must also designate a single point of contact for coordinating telecommuting opportunities. The resolution will contain the responsibilities of the single point of contact, including coordinating and partnering with telecommuting stakeholders, and collaborating with broadband providers and employers.

WSTA supports the approach that connects local governments, through the single point of contact, with broadband providers, state broadband resources, economic development professionals, along with critical stakeholders such as tourism officials and real estate professionals.

“Wisconsin is the first state in the nation with a certification to promote telecommuting,” continued Esbeck. “WSTA members have robust broadband, and this partnership facilitates new opportunities for our companies to serve their customers and communities.”

WSTA looks forward to partnering with certified communities on statewide events such as a Telecommuter Forward! conferences and job fairs, bringing together local, state and national stakeholders.

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