



# Mike Kuglitsch

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 84<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Rep. Mike Kuglitsch (608) 267-5158**

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## **Representative Kuglitsch Supports Workforce Training for Jobs of the Future**

**Madison** – Rep. Mike Kuglitsch (R-New Berlin) is introducing legislation allowing businesses in Wisconsin to coordinate efforts to educate and train for the jobs of the future coming to Wisconsin.

**“According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, solar installers and wind turbine technicians are currently the fastest growing professions across the country, Wisconsin cannot afford to miss out on this opportunity for job creation,” stated Representative Kuglitsch.**

Wisconsin currently has 4,700 megawatts of solar and 800 megawatts of wind in the que with the Midwest Independent System Operator, or MISO, which is the not-for-profit member-based organization ensuring reliable, low-cost electricity across 15 U.S. states and one Canadian province.

Drawing upon Wisconsin Fast Forward for the funding, Rep. Kuglitsch is introducing legislation that allows businesses to apply for Fast Forward grants for entry-level training as a wind turbine technician, or solar voltaic installer. It is up to the businesses to determine the appropriate training need and preference is given to multiple businesses rather than an individual business hiring multiple employees.

**“I am committed to preparing our state’s workforce for the continually evolving economy of Wisconsin. Our state needs to be proactive towards both current and future employment growth,” said Representative Kuglitsch.**

Modeled on the current Fast Forward grant at the Department of Workforce Development, a consortium of businesses are allowed to organize in an effort to educate and train potential employees about wind and solar energy systems. To qualify, the business must commit to hire the individuals once training is complete. The businesses will be reimbursed 50% of the cost of the education and training through already allocated Fast Forwards funds.

**Representative Kuglitsch stated, “Businesses must match Fast Forward Grants to qualify for reimbursement and then commit to hire the individuals once training is complete.”**



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A portable credential will be awarded at the end of training in the form of a renewable energy certificate.

Rep. Kuglitsch unveiled the proposal as part of the “Earth Day – The Wisconsin Way” legislative and initiatives package offered by Assembly Republicans. The package also includes proposals aimed at improving access to electric charging stations, making it easier for consumers to purchase renewable energy, reaffirming the commitment to Wisconsin Stewardship, and addressing the issue of electronics disposal.

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