

Governor Doyle Creates Business Council

Announces \$1 Million to Support Effort; Council will Connect Regional Economic Development Efforts Across the State

On April 17, Governor Jim Doyle signed Executive Order 193 creating the Governor's Business Council, a group comprising leaders of the state's regional economic development organizations the Milwaukee 7, New North, REDE in Madison, Centergy, and Momentum. This new group will provide a forum to share best practices and develop new policy.



Gov. Jim Doyle leads discussion on the formation of the Governor's Business Council in Milwaukee on April 17th

Representatives from west central Wisconsin traveled to Milwaukee to participate in discussions with other regional organizations and to witness the execution of the Executive Order. They included Linda S. Clark from Xcel Energy (Eau Claire) and Momentum Chippewa Valley, Dan Reeves, Polk County EDC and The RiverBank St. Croix Falls, Brian Doudna, Eau Claire Area EDC, and William Rubin, St. Croix EDC. Discussions between St.

Croix Valley and Chippewa Valley counties about the formation of a regional economic development organization have been ongoing. Both groups will continue these discussions in hopes of a decision by the end of 2007.

Governor Doyle also announced \$1 million to support these organizations, which will enhance Wisconsin's business climate, move forward on economic development ideas, build workforce skills, and prepare Wisconsin for the economy of the future.

"Wisconsin is home to the best companies and the best workers. But the future strength of our economy depends on our ability to bring together business leaders from every corner of the state from Door County to Grant County, and from Superior to Racine," Governor Doyle said. "Together, we will build the coordinated effort the state needs to compete in the global marketplace by attracting and retaining innovative companies, and equipping our workers with the skills they'll need for the jobs of the future."

The Council will be a vehicle for government and businesses to find real solutions that promote innovation, streamline regulation, move forward on affordable healthcare for Wisconsin's workers, enhance entrepreneurial spirit, and make Wisconsin a national leader in workforce skills and efficient manufacturing.

The Council will be chaired by Governor Doyle, and will include Commerce Secretary Mary P. Burke, Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman, and representatives from five regional economic development groups the Milwaukee 7 in Southeast Wisconsin, Centergy in Central Wisconsin, the New North in Northern Wisconsin, Momentum in West Central Wisconsin, and Regional Economic Development Entity (REDE) in South central Wisconsin.

Governor Doyle's budget commits up to \$1 million to support regional projects. Governor Doyle is also making significant investments in workforce training, business attraction, education, as well as increasing capital to grow companies, and build Wisconsin's bio industry.

Read Governor Doyle's Executive Order creating the Council: <http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=11050>.