



Phil Montgomery

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GREEN TIER LEGISLATION SENT TO GOVERNOR

Governor has delayed action on bipartisan regulatory reform bill for 70 days

Madison – Governor Doyle’s failure to act on a bipartisan regulatory reform bill endorsed by his administration prompted the legislature to send the popular Green Tier bill to the governor Monday.

The legislature’s action ends over 70 days of partisan delay by the governor, who must act on the Green Tier bill (AB 228) by December 8. Rep. Phil Montgomery (R-Ashwaubenon), author of the bill, said it is time the governor act on the bipartisan bill endorsed by both the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Commerce (DOC).

“Watching the governor stall on this bipartisan bill has helped me understand how Wisconsin companies must feel when state bureaucrats sit on their permit applications,” Montgomery said. “It is ironic that the governor is calling for regulatory reform while simultaneously delaying this bill. The governor has taken a page from the state bureaucrats by stalling this bill without explanation.”

In his “Grow Wisconsin” package, Doyle specifically mentioned the need to enact legislation that rewards companies with good environmental records. Moreover, both the DNR and DOC voiced support for AB 228, calling the bill a “key legislative business bill” and a reason for “small businesses to sit up and take notice.”

“I’m amazed the governor has delayed action on the Green Tier bill given his administration’s strong support for the legislation,” Montgomery said. “The governor’s purposeful delay on this bill sets a poor example for the bureaucrats responsible for Wisconsin’s anti-business reputation.”

Montgomery said AB 228 is modeled after the DNR’s remarkably successful Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program. According to the DNR, the six-year-old program has “yielded measurable and sustainable environmental performance ... beyond the results that would have been accomplished without the program.”

“The Environmental Protection Agency encourages the Green Tier program and 35 states have already implemented this important regulatory reform,” Montgomery said. “I hope the governor follows the advice of his administration and lives up to his promise to reward responsible companies for exceeding state environmental standards.”

AB 228 passed the state Assembly 65-30 on May 29 and cleared the state Senate 20-13 on September 23.