



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

November 3, 2003

Governor James E. Doyle
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Doyle,

We are writing to respectfully request your attention and action on common sense and consensus legislation that will encourage companies to improve environmental performance and reduce regulatory burdens.

Assembly Bill 228 – commonly known as the ‘Green Tier’ bill – provides businesses with strong and consistent environmental records incentives for voluntarily improving their environmental performance above and beyond state environmental standards. The bill passed the Legislature on September 23, 2003 and is the first significant piece of regulatory reform to pass this session.

The bipartisan legislation began in 1995 when former President Bill Clinton charged Vice-President Al Gore with implementing the “Reinventing Government” initiative. The success of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program in improving environmental compliance led 35 other states, including Minnesota and Michigan, to implement similar programs.

In your “Grow Wisconsin” package, you specifically mention the need to reform our regulatory environment to encourage business investment in Wisconsin. Moreover, you promised to enact legislation that keeps environmental standards high while rewarding companies with good environmental records. AB 228 accomplishes these goals.

For the first time, responsible companies will have a direct incentive to improve their internal systems. Companies that take part in the voluntary programs will be rewarded with a designated DNR contact person to speed the permitting process, public recognition of environmentally friendly practices, and the ability to work closely with the DNR to promote environmental improvements.

More importantly, the Green Tier program will reinforce our high environmental standards while reducing regulatory red tape. For Wisconsin's environment, AB 228 offers:

- Measurable environmental performance improvements
- Higher assurance of compliance
- More robust environmental management by facilities
- Annual reporting of improvements
- More access to facility information

The stringent eligibility standards set forth in the legislation prohibit any company from participating that has an environmental violation in the past five years. More importantly, the programs created by the bill will help the DNR focus their limited enforcement resources where they belong: on the poor environmental performers in our state.

In closing, we believe Assembly Bill 228 is a win-win for the environment and business community. Rewarding responsible businesses for improving environmental performance is a common-sense concept that is long overdue.

We are encouraged that your "Grow Wisconsin" plan recognizes the need to reward businesses for good behavior. We hope you stand by your promise to implement regulatory reform and sign this vital piece of legislation into law.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Phil Montgomery
State Representative
Fourth Assembly District



Neal Kedzie
State Senator
Eleventh Senate District