



Phil Montgomery

Serving the Communities of Allouez, Ashwaubenon, De Pere and Green Bay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOYLE VETOES BIPARTISAN GREEN TIER LEGISLATION

Governor's veto breaks "Grow Wisconsin" promise, hurts environment

Governor Doyle broke his promise to reward companies with good environmental records Friday, vetoing a bipartisan proposal his administration called a "key legislative business bill" and a reason for "small businesses to sit up and take notice."

The governor's veto of AB 228, popularly known as the "Green Tier" bill, is a stunning departure from the Doyle administration's repeated calls for regulatory reform. Rep. Phil Montgomery (R-Ashwaubenon), co-author of the bill, said he was disappointed by the governor's flip-flop.

"Today we learned the truth about Governor Doyle and his 'Grow Wisconsin' plan," Montgomery said. "Despite all of the rhetoric on regulatory reform, the governor's hypocritical veto illustrates his continued resistance to improving the quality of our regulatory environment."

AB 228 is modeled after the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) remarkably successful Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program, a voluntary six-year-old program that has "yielded measurable and sustainable environmental performance ... beyond the results that would have been accomplished without the program." According to the DNR website, the Green Tier pilot program has led to:

- Every program participant increasing regulatory compliance beyond state standards
- Improved cooperation between program participants and the DNR
- Reduced emissions and discharges due to newly developed environmental management systems
- Improved environmental performance reporting to the DNR and the public

A DNR memo said the Green Tier program "offers the opportunity to better protect and manage both our natural resources, as well as our economic and institutional assets." Montgomery said he is baffled why the governor would veto legislation that would reward businesses for voluntarily exceeding the state's high environmental standards.

"Inevitably, the people of Wisconsin will judge Governor Doyle by his actions, not his words," Montgomery said. "The governor has said all the right things about regulatory reform, but has continually failed to follow through on promises he made in his "Grow Wisconsin" plan."

Governor Doyle's flip-flop is especially troubling because it reinforces the antiquated "command and control" regulatory structure, a system the DNR says is failing. According to the DNR, "The rigidity of the traditional regulatory system ... has meant at times, less environmental performance rather than more."

"The governor missed a chance to change the way Wisconsin does business today and our workers and environment are going to pay the price," Montgomery said.