



REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER

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MAJORITY LEADER NELSON: 600 JOBS CREATED TODAY WITH NEW LEGISLATION

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Assembly Majority Leader Thomas Nelson (D-Kaukauna) touted legislation being signed into law today that will immediately create 600 jobs in central Wisconsin. The legislation, SB 440, will allow Wisconsin communities to pool their bonding power in order to authorize local job creation projects. Governor Doyle signed the bill into law at Energy Composites Corporation in Wisconsin Rapids.

“By signing this bill into law, a number of economic development projects will be able to move forward, creating hundreds of jobs,” said Representative Nelson. “This will cost the state nothing, but has tremendous potential to generate new jobs and economic growth.”

Currently, more than half of Wisconsin counties have access to less than \$1 million of bonding authority. By creating a statewide bonding pool, communities across the state will be able to offer businesses tax-exempt financing for development. Energy Composites Corporation, which manufactures wind turbine components, is using the financing to immediately expand their operations and permanently hire 600 full-time workers. The company could create a total of 1,000 jobs in the next five years.

“This is a perfect example of how business leaders, lawmakers, and local officials can work together to spur economic growth,” said Representative Nelson. “This legislation will immediately benefit Wisconsin Rapids, but can also help communities across the state.”

After the bill signing, Majority Leader Nelson joined Representatives Marlin Schneider, Amy Sue Vruwink, and Louis Molepske, Jr. in a visit with a local major employer, Ocean Spray. The legislators toured Ocean Spray’s cranberry processing facility. The facility’s expansion was completed in 2008, employs 570 people, and is the largest cranberry processing plant in the world. Wisconsin is the top cranberry producing state in the country.

SB 440 is only the latest effort by Assembly Democrats to strengthen Wisconsin’s economy. Earlier this session, the Assembly created more than \$200 million worth of incentives for businesses to create and retain jobs. Wisconsin is already seeing economic successes because of these efforts at businesses like Mercury Marine in Fond du Lac, Frito Lay in Beloit, and VitalMedix in Hudson.

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