



**November 13, 2009**

## **Global Warming Task Force = Lost Jobs**

One of the big concerns about the prospect of Wisconsin passing global warming legislation is the lost manufacturing jobs that would result. A just released report commissioned by the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute (WPRI) quantifies these losses. The report analyzed 13 of the Task Force's recommendations and estimates that if these are implemented our state would suffer a net loss of 31,000 jobs over the next 11 years.

If a cap and trade scheme is implemented as well, WPRI estimates the net job loss figure would increase to 49,000.

The paper industry, like other manufacturing industries, is already under stress in Wisconsin. New Page Corporation, which operates four paper mills and employs 2,350 workers in our state, reported a \$138 million loss in the third quarter. New Page closed two other paper mills in Wisconsin last year. The paper making business is a big user of electricity.

On Thursday the Public Service Commission granted Wisconsin Energies a rate increase of just under 4%. The utility requested a 7.5% increase but the PSC opted for the smaller amount. Under the utility's plans, another rate increase will be necessary in 2011.

These rate increases will pale in comparison to what will happen if Wisconsin passes global warming legislation mandating more expensive electricity. It's expected the added cost will place an additional burden on manufacturers and cost our state manufacturing jobs. The WPRI report confirms this.

And rising utility costs are only part of the problem – under the legislation the DNR will likely have even more regulatory authority over manufacturers. The WPRI study confirms that any expected increase in “green jobs” would be mostly expensive government jobs, funded by taxpayers.

Meanwhile more chilling news on the weather front. The National and Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that October was the third coldest on record for the United States, following on the heels of a very chilly summer across much of the country.

So let's put all of the above together. It's been pretty cold lately. These are tough economic times – with high unemployment and electric rates already rising. And Governor Doyle's Global Warming Task Force wants our state to pass laws that will make unemployment even higher,

push electric rates up which in turn will push up the costs for everything, and also grant the DNR even more regulatory authority-all for the purpose of making the climate even COLDER!

It is unknown when the legislation will be introduced in Wisconsin, but it is expected to be "soon." It will be based on the extensive recommendations of Governor Doyle's Global Warming Task Force and if enacted will mandate intrusive government regulations which will push up energy costs, induce higher prices for any product requiring energy in its production and cost lots of jobs.

I will continue to keep you informed of upcoming developments as the legislation is actually introduced.

Access all my reports online, at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm23/news/media.htm>.

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State Capitol • Room 317 North • Post Office Box 8953 • Madison, WI 53708  
(608) 266-0486 • District: (262) 240-0808 • Toll Free: (888) 534-0023  
Rep.Ottj@legis.wi.gov