



January 11, 2010

## Global Warming Bill Will Destroy Jobs

Governor Doyle officially introduced his global warming bill, Assembly Bill 649, at a press conference in Madison last Thursday. Ironically, another press conference scheduled in Milwaukee was cancelled due to weather. Supporters hope to have the Governor sign the bill into law on Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

AB 649 is being marketed by its authors as the “The Clean Energy Jobs Act.” Perhaps this is one of the most misnamed bills in the history of misnaming bills. Make no mistake, the evolution of this bill shows its origins rest in the recommendations of the Governor’s Global Warming Task Force. Its only effect on the job market will be a net loss of jobs, and consumers can expect to be hit with higher energy prices and a higher cost of living.

In his mission statement to the Task Force Governor Doyle told them to “Present viable, actionable policy recommendations to...make Wisconsin a leader in implementation of global warming solutions”, and, “Identify specific short- and long-term goals...to minimize the impacts of global warming. For the full text of the Mission Statement of the Task Force see page i of the Final Report by the Governor’s Task Force on Global Warming. For a detailed discussion of some of the measures included in the bill see Hot Air Report #s 22-31.

Supporters of AB 649 are now ignoring the mission given to the Task Force and the resulting legislation by claiming it is about creating jobs. Here are some fair questions for Governor Doyle and the bill’s authors:

- How will mandating higher energy prices create jobs when consumers have less to spend on other items and the manufacturing industry will see their production costs dramatically rise?
- How will California Emission Standards create jobs when vehicles will cost more in Wisconsin?
- How will adopting a low carbon fuel standard create jobs when fuel prices rise?
- “Green” jobs will be created, but they will be mostly government positions, paid for by your tax dollars. How will more government jobs improve the economy?

It is obvious the Governor and legislative Democrats used no common sense when putting together this “jobs” legislation. AB 649, “The Clean Energy Jobs Act” has nothing to do with creating jobs.

Higher energy prices do not create jobs they lead to higher costs and lower standards of living. You, the consumer, get hit with higher utility bills, but don’t get anything extra in return. You will not only have less money for other spending, but your money won’t go as far because everything will cost more. Higher energy prices make everything more expensive, not just energy.

Manufacturers and businesses will be in serious economic trouble. These companies use energy too, and their costs will go up. The higher energy and regulatory costs will be passed directly onto customers or be absorbed by employers. If and when consumers can't afford these costs, we will see higher unemployment. If employers need to cut costs to make up for the higher energy prices, they will cut jobs.

Governor Doyle and Democrats claim the bill will lead to thousands of "green" jobs. Most will be in the public sector, supported by your taxes. For example, the DNR will need new positions to enforce the bill's mandates. A study commissioned by the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute estimates these and other "green" jobs will be more than offset by thousands of private sector job losses.

Of course it's not surprising that supporters of AB 649 don't seem to be bothered by this. **Governor Doyle's directives to the Task Force were to not do a cost/benefit analysis and consider man made global warming a fact.** In other words, come up with extensive ideas on how Wisconsin can fight global warming and don't worry about whether it is really happening and don't worry about how much it will cost. And now ignore the fact that harvesting was delayed in Wisconsin due to an exceptionally cool summer and much of the Northern Hemisphere is suffering its coldest winter in many years.

The bill has been sent to a special committee, which will hold a hearing in the near future. Contact your friends and relatives and tell them to oppose AB 649. I will keep you informed as updates are available.

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