



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# KATHY BERNIER

**For Immediate Release**  
January 14, 2013

**Contact:** Rep. Kathy Bernier  
(608) 266-9172

## **REP. BERNIER: COMMENT ON STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

**Madison** – State Representative Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie) issued the following statement after Governor Walker’s State of the State address Tuesday night:

“Governor Walker did an outstanding job tonight outlining the positive steps we’ve taken to get Wisconsin back on track over the past two years. We’ve accomplished great things since I was first elected to serve the residents of the 68<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. We’ve erased a \$3.6 billion deficit, reduced unemployment from 7.8 percent to 6.7 percent, and realized a \$342 million budget surplus.

Despite the encouraging news here at home, our federal government is facing rising debt, greater deficit spending and, unemployment stuck at or near 8 percent. Governor Walker has positioned Wisconsin to effectively fend off these discouraging national trends.

Job creation is job one for this Governor. Our State, because of reforms enacted in the previous legislative session, is uniquely poised to grow jobs. We are focused on creating a business-friendly environment, where our neighboring states are struggling to make ends meet and facing deep budget cuts. The reforms enacted last session are working and Governor Walker’s strong, sensible leadership is the reason Wisconsin continues to move forward while other states lag behind.

I am very pleased to hear the Governor is continuing to focus on revising Wisconsin’s mining regulations. We can and must strike a balance between protecting our incredible natural resources while allowing us to take advantage of our geographical position to provide high-paying, family-sustaining jobs across the state. Mining jobs in Wisconsin will not only be found in northern Wisconsin, but all across the state - in mining itself and the manufacturing of necessary equipment.

While addressing bloated and outdated regulations and improving our job climate, we also need to improve education and provide qualified employees. We must adapt to the needs of Wisconsin employers before we end up with a 30,000 job skills-gap. A strong workforce starts at the K-12 level and continues through our Tech Colleges and our enviable University of Wisconsin System. New and existing employers will benefit from a trained and developed workforce that comes from education reform.

Wisconsin must reform our tax code and Governor Walker is ready to take this issue head-on. Both the state and local governments have saved more than \$2 billion through responsible budgeting. However, the current tax structure is too complex and is a heavy hand on the backs of growing companies, crushing middle-income earners. We can and must do better.

Governor Walker’s leadership has led the state forward. He once again is proving that he’s ready and willing to take on the big issues facing our state to ensure Wisconsin continues to grow and create family-sustaining jobs. I applaud the Governor and his remarks tonight. I will work with him and others, regardless of party affiliation, on common-sense proposals that put families first.”

###

(608) 266-9172  
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0068  
Fax: (608) 282-3668  
Home: (715) 720-0326

P.O. Box 8952 • Madison, WI 53708-8952  
Rep.Bernier@legis.wi.gov