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January 12, 2011

Governor Scott Walker  
Room 115 East  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Senator Scott Fitzgerald  
Room 211 South  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Representative Jeff Fitzgerald  
Room 211 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker, Senator Fitzgerald, and Representative Fitzgerald:

I am writing in my capacity as chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Strategic Job Creation. The Special Committee was directed to study and make recommendations to promote strategic development of high-wage jobs and an educated and skilled workforce in the state by doing the following:

- Examining methods to promote green jobs and industries utilizing solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass technologies, including technologies for converting farm wastes to energy. In this examination, the Special Committee was directed to analyze current and potential incentives to encourage investment in research, development, commercialization, and use of these technologies and the development and retention of an educated and skilled workforce in these industries.
- Identifying industry and knowledge sectors with the greatest potential for job growth in the state and recommending steps to align the state's educational and workforce development programs, tax structure, and economic development initiatives to

facilitate the growth of those sectors.

- Analyzing the adequacy of the state's physical infrastructure, including access to high-speed Internet services, to support development of targeted industries and overall economic development of the state.

The Special Committee will make recommendations to the Joint Legislative Council in the 2011-12 Legislative Session. However, the Special Committee discussed a number of recommendations that it thought appropriate to include in a letter to the Governor, Senate Majority Leader, and Assembly Speaker, rather than submit as a recommendation to the Joint Legislative Council.

First, the Special Committee recommends that the Governor and Legislature improve access to capital for businesses. The Special Committee heard testimony about the inability of businesses to access the capital they need to operate or expand their businesses. The lack of access to capital hampers a business's ability to create jobs. Improving access to capital would allow businesses to operate and expand, thus allowing businesses to create jobs in the state.

Second, the Special Committee recommends that the state make a commitment to lead in renewable energy and to develop a strategic plan to lead in renewable energy. The Special Committee discussed the state's potential to lead in renewable energy and the competition that the state may face if other states market themselves in this area. To further the state's commitment to lead in renewable energy, the Special Committee recognizes the importance of collaboration among education, industry, and government to form partnerships both inside and outside the state.

Third, the Special Committee recommends that the state implement a large-scale energy conservation plan to reduce energy use by 40% in the state. An energy conservation plan would include improving existing structure and infrastructure, implementing new codes, encouraging technology development, and training for energy conservation jobs. An energy conservation plan would create jobs in energy audits, repairs, and installations.

Lastly, the Special Committee recommends that the state pursue a public information campaign to inform businesses and individuals about the benefits, economics, and mechanisms of energy conservation. A public information campaign would encourage businesses and individuals to consider energy conservation and would reduce energy use and provide savings to businesses and individuals.

The Special Committee hopes that the Governor and Legislature will make these issues a top priority in the 2011-12 Legislative Session. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Senator Robert Wirth  
Chair, Special Committee on Strategic Job Creation