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WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Darling/Gudex Announce Economic Development Plan

MADISON - Wisconsin added more jobs in October than any time since April of 1992, but two state lawmakers want to do more.

State Senators Alberta Darling and Rick Gudex are working on a series of bills to reduce red tape, encourage innovation, and invest in successful ideas. Senator Darling says economic development package address each part of the state.

"Each part of our state faces different challenges, but they have a common goal of wanting to succeed right here in Wisconsin," Darling said, "Our economic development plan will give them an edge when they compete against other states and the world."

The legislation is a result of a listening tour of the Senate Economic Development Committee. The committee held five meetings throughout the state. Senator Gudex says the tour provided a lot of great ideas.

"At each meeting I said we want to hear what is working and what is not as it relates with Economic Development" Gudex said, "These ideas are a direct result of listening to job creators and the challenges they face each and every day."

The Darling and Gudex Proposals will:

- Allow the Public Service Commission to make grants and improve broadband access throughout Wisconsin
- Encourage students to enter high demand fields
- Create regional investment funds to quickly react to job creation opportunities
- Help move ideas into the marketplace with development grants

- Cut the red tape which stops investors from assisting the next great idea
 - Encourage long-term research and development in Wisconsin
 - Increase the impact of tourism has on the economy
- Darling and Gudex expect to have public hearings on their bills in early January.

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