



Attracting and retaining private sector jobs

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By Jeff Plale, 7th District State Senator

Lately in Wisconsin, we've seen some promising signs of economic recovery, but we won't have true stability until there is substantial job growth across our state. In order for this job creation to occur, investment in the private sector is necessary. State government can help facilitate that investment through targeted credits that promote promising businesses and worker education programs. That concept is at the center of the CORE Jobs Act, Senate Bill 409, which was recently introduced by my colleagues Senators Julie Lassa (D-Stevens Point) and Pat Kreitlow (D-Chippewa Falls). I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation.

CORE stands for Connecting Opportunity, Research, and Entrepreneurship. The plan will create jobs by increasing assistance to schools and local services that strengthen communities, investing in research and development, and making Wisconsin more business-friendly through changes to our regulatory and tax code.

Recent announcements statewide demonstrate how Wisconsin is attracting new business, largely due to successful programs that the CORE Jobs Act bolsters. For example, A&E Inc. is moving its Texas operations to Wisconsin. They will receive a worker training grant and tax credits from the state and bring 28 new jobs with them to Racine. At its current location in Minnesota, VitalMedix is unable to secure funding, and therefore is moving to Wisconsin to take advantage of our angel tax credit program. Locally, Rexnord Industries is using a state Department of Commerce Major Economic Development Award to create 90 new jobs in Cudahy, and Republic Airways announced it will take advantage of Wisconsin enterprise zone tax credits to keep 800 jobs here and move 800 more to Milwaukee.

Success stories like these illustrate the positive business climate in Wisconsin and highlight the benefits of programs the CORE Jobs Act will help sustain. On Dec. 15, SB 409 passed out of the Senate Committee on Economic Development on a unanimous vote. I am hopeful this bill will come before the full legislature when we reconvene in January.

If you have questions on the CORE Jobs Act, or any other state matter, please contact my office. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jeff Plale is the state senator for Wisconsin's Seventh Senate District, which spans from Milwaukee's East Side to Oak Creek, including downtown, the Third Ward, Bay View, St. Francis, Cudahy, and South Milwaukee. He can be reached locally at (414) 744-1444 or in Madison at (800) 361-5487 or sen.plale@legis.wisconsin.gov.