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December 16, 2009

*****DRAFT*****

Senator Julie Lassa
Senator Kreitlow
WI State Legislature
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Lassa and Senator Krietlow:

On behalf of Centergy, Inc., the Central Wisconsin Alliance for Economic Development, I wish to show our support for SB 409, C.O.R.E., Connecting Opportunity, Research, and Entrepreneurship.

As you well know we live in fiscally challenging times and need to act creatively as to how we get Wisconsin's economy back on track. As explained, this \$15 million proposed legislation will not require new investment, but an allocation of funds that have been previously approved in the current biennial budget. However, the method in which these dollars will be allocated is designed to encourage small business formation, improve workers' education and training, and further improve the investment climate of this State.

We applaud the foundation of this bill embedded in one-on-one feedback directly from economic development professionals. The elements were further validated by NorthStar Economics, Inc., in their report dated December 2009.

As Wisconsin continues to be challenged by the worst international economic crisis of this generation, this comprehensive package of economic development measures is being introduced to create new jobs and lay the foundation for the state's future economic prosperity. Centergy highlights some of the key elements that will have direct benefit to our region. Wisconsin:

Actions to improve the State's Business Investment Climate

- Increase in angel/venture tax credits
- Investment incentives to stimulate green manufacturing
- Pilot microloan program to promote small business formation

Actions to improve workers' education, training, and productivity

- Post-Secondary Education tax credits
- Access to state supported economic modeling software
- Advanced Training Grants

Actions to Improve Small Business Formation and Operations

- SBIR grant writer
- Regulatory Ombudsman
- Increase in Wisconsin Development Fund
- WiSys Small Business Research Assistance Program

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Centergy's mission is to stimulate measureable economic development in Central Wisconsin by aligning resources, encouraging cooperation among all sectors of our regional economy, and promoting the value of doing business in Central Wisconsin. We see elements of SB409 assisting us with this mission.

We look forward to staying involved in the legislative process.

Best regards,

Barb Fleisner

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cc: William Tehan, President