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November 18, 2009

Senator Julie Lassa
Wisconsin State Legislature
Room 323 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Lassa,

WiSys Technology Foundation strongly supports the proposed C.O.R.E. Jobs Act. WiSys, the designated technology transfer organization for the University of Wisconsin System comprehensive campuses, is focused on transferring technologies and discoveries made at the university to private or public industries for the benefit of Wisconsin. The 11 comprehensive campuses of the UW System have ample underutilized expertise that could be used to benefit Wisconsin companies through the development of new products or technologies that can help companies stay competitive, create jobs and grow their business. The proposed funding to "connect research to jobs through WiSys" would allow us to work with small companies through the Small Business Assistance Program to move their product ideas into the market. Because this is a collaboration and partnership, UW campuses would share the profits from such new business opportunities and thus would be able to sustain the program for years to come with no further assistance from the state.

In addition, the C.O.R.E. Jobs Act contains several other innovative and progressive ideas that will spur job and business growth in Wisconsin through university led technology development. For example, assistance to Emerging Technology Centers would allow a campus to focus on developing certain cutting-edge technologies in areas such as nanotechnology, tissue engineering, pharmaceutical development and interactive media development, leading to new start-up companies in the state. C.O.R.E. also proposes to initiate a business plan competition for students which would promote entrepreneurship and to increase funding for the Advanced Manufacturing Training Grant program created earlier this year.

November 18, 2009

Page 2

We believe that the C.O.R.E. Jobs Act addresses three critical issues for creating a robust economy. First, it creates high-paying jobs at the university and at small companies, while at the same time addressing technology needs of small businesses using the existing technical resources of the university, further stimulating business growth. Second, it addresses the important issue of providing technology training to undergraduate students in our comprehensive campuses (approximately 90,000 students), leading to better prospects for high-paying jobs and a better qualified workforce for our companies. And third, it advances entrepreneurship training, one of the most important factors for long-term growth of the state.

Thank you for your ideas and leadership in moving Wisconsin forward.

Best Regards,



Maliyakal John
Managing Director

Copy to: Carl Gulbrandsen, Managing Director, WARF; President, WiSys
Andy Cohn, Director of Government & Association Relations, WARF