



THE KREITLOW REPORT

STATE SENATOR PAT KREITLOW



December 2009



Greetings Friends,

Every couple weeks, I send out a legislative update to let people know what I'm working on and hopefully get their feedback on the issues that are being discussed in our community and the legislature.

If you are interested in signing up for this update, or if you'd like to stop receiving it, please contact my office.

Thanks for reading,

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2009 Session Wrap-Up

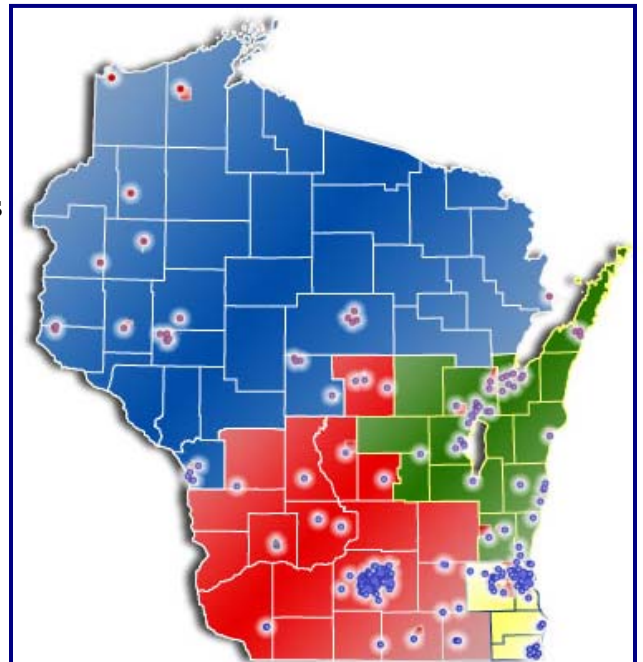
As 2009 wraps up there have been some very promising signs that the economy is entering a recovery, but my focus remains on working to create paths to job growth, which will be essential to ensuring that our economic recovery does not just happen on Wall Street but here in Wisconsin as people are able to find family supporting jobs and get our local economies moving again.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, I am the co-author of the C.O.R.E. Jobs Act (Senate Bill 409), and I am proud to report that this bill was passed out of the Senate Committee on Economic Development (of which I am a member) this week after we gathered input about this proposal and made several improvements to how the programs and incentives outlined in the bill will be implemented.

The C.O.R.E. jobs act is centered around several incentive programs that have a proven track record of creating jobs both here in the Chippewa Valley and across the state. This bill includes an expansion of Accelerate Wisconsin, the program which provides tax credits for angel and venture capitol investment and increased funding for the Wisconsin Development Fund, which helps start-up and expanding businesses through grant programs.

In addition, the proposal includes a plan to provide tax incentives for businesses that help pay their workers' tuition for skills that help a business improve its products and systems and be more competitive. It also supports public-private research partnerships between small businesses and UW campuses like Eau Claire and Stout.

Tax credit programs such as these which inspire research and investment in local companies is a proven formula for job creation, and we have seen over 400 good-paying, high-tech jobs created right here in the Chippewa Valley as a result of similar efforts.



Dots represent areas where CORE programs have already created jobs around the state.

By county for West-Central Wisconsin:

Chippewa-Small Tree Communications

Dunn: UW-Stout

Eau Claire: Chippewa Valley Angel Investors, ESAN, Evrisko Systems, StrandVision, UW-Eau Claire

Wood: 10H Inc, Marshfield Investment Partners, UWE-Marshfield/Wood County, Central Wisconsin Business Angels

Click all [LINKS](#) for more info about the topic

Useful Contact Information

State Agencies and Departments

Aging & Long Term Care:
1-800-242-1060

Attorney General: 608-266-1221

Business Help Line: 1-800-435-7287

Consumer Protection Hotline:
1-800-422-7128

Commerce: 608-266-1018

Employment Relations:
608-266-1731

Farm Hotline: 1-800-942-2474

Governor: 608-266-1212

Health & Family Services:
608-266-9622

Housing Loans, Low Interest:
1-800-334-6873

Workforce Development:
608-266-3131

Natural Resources: 608-266-2621

Public Instruction: 608-266-3390

Public Service Commission:
608-266-2001

Revenue: 608-266-2486

Road Conditions/Detours:
1-800-762-3947

Tax Refund Information:
608-266-8100

Transportation: 608-266-1466

Unemployment Insurance:
1-800-494-4944

Federal Toll-Free

Census Bureau: 1-800-233-6136

Internal Revenue Service:
1-800-829-4477

Peace Corps: 1-800-424-8580

Social Security Administration:
1-800-772-1213

US Veterans Benefits:
1-800-827-1000

Federal Legislators

Sen. Herbert Kohl: 202-224-5653,
715-832-8424

Sen. Russ Feingold: 202-224-5323,
608-828-1200

Rep. Dave Obey: 202-225-3365,
715-842-5606

Rep. Ron Kind: 202-225-5506,
715-831-9214

CORE Continued

When those efforts are combined with a continued investment in programs like NanoSTEM at UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout and CVTC, our area will be in a strong position to benefit from the investments made through the CORE Jobs Act, and the rest of the state will also be able to make similar initiatives to help spur economic growth for the long term.

More information about this bill, which we expect to pass out of the legislature in early January, can be found at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sdc/CORE/>.

Drunk Driving Reform

In a special session this week the legislature passed a bill that will comprehensively reform our state's drunk driving laws, an ongoing public safety and law enforcement concern that has been the topic of a great deal of discussion in the legislature over the last several months. Drunk driving is not a cut-and-dry issue, and there were dozens of suggestions about how we could not simply punish offenders of these laws, especially for repeat offenders, but also reform the way we deal with this problem so that we can truly reverse the growing trend of drunk driving on Wisconsin laws.

Senate Bill 66, passed by both houses of the legislature with assurances that it will be signed by the Governor, will:

- Make a fourth-offense OWI a felony if the driver has a previous OWI-related conviction within the previous five-year period.
- Criminalize first-offense OWI if a child is in the vehicle
- Require the installation of Ignition Interlock Devices (IID) for all repeat offenders as well as first-time offenders with a BAC of .15 or higher.
- Require mandatory prison sentences for repeat drunk drivers.

This legislation also creates an initiative for the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide better treatment and monitoring for offenders through community probation supervision and enhanced community treatment for second and third OWI offenders.

Furthermore, this legislation requires the DOC to provide probation supervision, assessments, treatment, and other community treatment options for second and third OWI offenders with no waiting list.

These elements are important to ensuring that we are not only punishing the worst offenders but working to reform a system that too often misses the root of the problem, leading only to more repeat offenses and danger on our roads. I was proud to be a part of passing this reform and truly come together with my colleagues to address this important issue.



IID's are an effective deterrent for many would-be repeat drunk drivers