



# An Open Letter to Governor Jim Doyle

Dear Governor Doyle,

In the first two years of your term, you signed two landmark pieces of legislation aimed at making Wisconsin more competitive — the Job Creation Act and single sales factor corporate income tax apportionment.

Those changes have made Wisconsin a better place to do business by streamlining industrial permits and cutting corporate taxes. Our economy is strong, and is expected to get even stronger. And, we thank you.

But our gains are at risk because Wisconsin is in the early stages of a liability crisis. Jobs are at stake — now and for future generations.

The crisis has been created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and because our state has failed to keep pace with the legal reforms enacted elsewhere. In 2004, the US Chamber of Commerce ranked Wisconsin's legal climate as 10th best in the nation. By 2005, we had slipped to 17th, due to inaction.

As you know, the Supreme Court rulings killed limits on non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases, eased standards for awarding massive punitive damage claims, and even created a "guilty-until-proven innocent" standard for manufacturers. *The Wall Street Journal* said "This decision is the first of its kind in the country and establishes a dangerous precedent. And, *The Wall Street Journal* even called our state "Alabama North," because our legal system is out of control.

The rulings are job killers. We urge you to work with the Republican Legislature, and sign liability reform legislation to restore fairness to our legal system.

We call upon you to exercise the same pioneering leadership you demonstrated when you signed the Job Creation Act and single sales factor. Those historic policy improvements will be long forgotten if our liability crisis consumes our economy — leaving families without jobs and our state without a future.

### Governor Doyle please sign real liability reform!

**AB 778 — The Job Preservation Act** restores the nearly 1,000 year-old legal tradition that a plaintiff must prove that a defendant caused harm in order to win a claim. Wisconsin must end the "guilty until proven innocent" standard established by the Supreme Court, or businesses won't expand here.

**SB 58 — Product Liability Reform** establishes new standards that limit frivolous lawsuits. SB 58 would protect manufacturers from suits if the product has been altered or damaged, and set reasonable time limits for bringing a suit. It's common sense legislation that Wisconsin needs to keep manufacturing jobs.


**AB 766 — Medical Malpractice Caps** re-establishes caps on non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases.

Please avert a full blown liability crisis by signing these — and other — bills aimed at controlling liability and keeping jobs in our state.

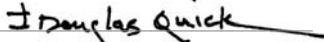
Let's show the world that we're not "Alabama North." Governor, you can return us to the days when Wisconsin was called the "Star of the Snowbelt," where businesses were welcomed with open arms and our legal system was fair for all. Our future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

  
Dennis J. Kuester  
Chairman & CEO, Marshall & Ilsley Corporation


  
Terry D. Growcock  
Chairman & CEO, The Manitowoc Company, Inc.


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Title and Company Name

  
J Douglas Quick  
President & CEO, Lakeside Foods, Inc.


  
William D. Gehl  
Chairman & CEO, Gehl Company

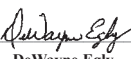
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Chairman, The Mark Travel Corporation

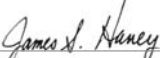
  
John Beckord  
President, Forward Janesville, Inc.

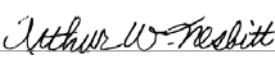
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Leo P. Brideau  
President & CEO, Columbia St. Mary's, Inc.


  
DeWayne Egly  
President & CEO, Trostel, Ltd.


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Title and Company Name

  
James S. Haney  
President, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce


  
Arthur W. Nesbitt  
CEO, Awnward, LLC


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Title and Company Name

  
G. Edwin Howe  
President, Aurora Health Care

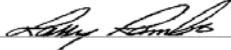
  
Curtis L. Hoppestad  
Factory Manager, John Deere Horicon Works of Deere & Co.

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Title and Company Name

  
Carl W. Kuehne  
Co-CEO, American Foods Group, LLC

  
Robert J. O'Toole  
Chairman & CEO, A. O. Smith Corporation

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Larry Rambo  
CEO, WI & MI Markets, Humana Inc.

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