

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2010

Contact: Rick Richard

608-322-9975

## **Current Energy Proposal Brings Higher Costs and Job Losses**

*15th Senate District candidate Rick Richard of Janesville issued the following statement on the proposed Clean Energy Jobs Act*

The Clean Energy Jobs Act proposed in the Wisconsin legislature, if enacted, would result in higher energy bills and increased job losses for Wisconsin families. I am opposed to the Clean Energy Jobs Act because it would seriously harm the economy of our state by increasing the cost of doing business here through higher energy expense and the cost of misguided regulation.

This act contains various recommendations from Governor Doyle's Global Warming Task Force. The task force's primary role was to discuss "possible solutions to global warming challenges," but instead it has proposed a bill estimated at a cost of \$16 billion and thousands of job losses.

While I strongly agree our country must become less dependent on foreign oil, Wisconsin cannot afford to add higher electric and transportation costs to a long list of recent changes that have made Wisconsin's business climate less competitive with other states.

This clean energy bill largely uses cap-and-trade and California-style emissions regulations to achieve task force goals of greenhouse gas emissions reduction. However, backers of this legislation have yet to point to an economic impact study to validate adding the word "jobs" to this act. Indeed, twenty three business groups and nine agricultural groups oppose the legislation because of predicted job losses and increased regulation from unelected bureaucrats.

The same Global Warming Task Force also recommends cutting greenhouse gases 75% below 2005 levels by 2050. Achieving this goal would require taking every gas and diesel powered car and truck off the road in Wisconsin. As well as taking every lawn mower out of our yards, every recreational vehicle off the trails, and shutting down all but three of Wisconsin's power plants.

The Wisconsin Policy Research Institute has estimated each family would pay more than \$1,000 over the course of a year in increased costs if this bill was enacted. Wisconsin families and businesses need state government to assist them by reducing costs and overhead, not increasing energy prices with additional state mandates.

The state legislature can still advance a real jobs act in this session by listening to employers. Employers want state government to work on legislation that includes improving Wisconsin's business climate, reducing the costs of health care for employees, and expanding targeted tax credits for locating and hiring in Wisconsin.

###