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Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Berry Floor USA, Inc., in Racine

Employment, training services available for 25 workers displaced in Racine County

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that 25 dislocated workers formerly employed by Berry Floor USA, Inc., in Racine, are eligible to apply for additional reemployment and training services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

“This additional federal assistance will help these workers increase their job skills and find new employment,” Governor Doyle said. “The employment and training services now available to these workers will help them reenter the workforce and support themselves and their families.”

The U.S. Department of Labor determined that the workers were displaced due to the firm’s decision to transfer business and customer support services to Belgium. All workers totally or partially separated from employment on or after May 27, 2008 through June 25, 2011 are eligible to apply for assistance.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) will administer the federally funded services, which are available through local Job Centers. They include retraining and reemployment services tailored to meet the needs of individual workers. These workers can now apply for the following TAA services:

- **Training** for employment in another job or career,
- **Income Support**, known as trade readjustment allowances (TRA),
- **Job Search Allowance** to cover expenses seeking employment outside normal commuting areas, and
- **Relocation Allowances** for approved relocation expenses in moving to a new area of employment.

“These are services that we and our local partners can provide affected workers, to help connect them with employers in search of workers with the right skills,” DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said.

Last month, Governor Doyle announced that the U.S. Department of Labor expanded the amount of TAA funds available nationwide to \$575 million from \$220 million as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The additional funding will help states serve an increasing number of trade-affected workers. More information on the TAA program is available at <http://www.doleta.gov>.

Individuals interested in receiving reemployment assistance should contact a local Job Center or visit <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory/> to find a Job Center nearby. The nearest Job Center location also can be found by calling (888) 258-9966 toll free.