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Secretary Gassman Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Kohler Company, Kohler, and Sauk Technologies, Saukville

Employment, training services for workers displaced due to foreign competition

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that workers displaced at the Kohler Company, Kohler, and Sauk Technologies, Saukville, are eligible to apply for additional re-employment and training services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

“This additional assistance available through the TAA program will help these workers increase their job skills, re-enter the workforce and support themselves and their families,” Secretary Gassman said.

Kohler workers manufactured kitchen and bath fixtures, generators and small engines. Sauk Technologies workers manufactured housings for the Kohler generators. Workers at both firms were displaced following an increase in competing import products, according to findings of the U.S. Department of Labor.

The TAA certification applies to Kohler workers displaced as of February 13, 2010, and it includes on-site leased workers from Manpower. The TAA certification applies to Sauk Technologies workers displaced as of February 24, 2009. Eligibility for both groups extends through October 28, 2012. Affected workers will be notified of meetings to discuss program benefits.

DWD administers the federally funded services, which are available through local Job Centers. They include retraining and re-employment 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,
- **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.

“Working with our partners, we provide these services to help displaced workers get the training they need and connect with employers in search of workers with the right skills,” Secretary Gassman said.

Last year, Wisconsin received additional funding when 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 (ARRA). 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 re-employment 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 toll free (888) 258-9966.