



Wisconsin Economic Development Association Inc.

TO: Members, Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Amy Boyer, on behalf of
Wisconsin Economic Development Association

DATE: March 21, 2007

RE: **Youth Apprenticeship Training Funding**

The Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) strongly supports and respectfully urges a recommendation for passage of the above referenced provision contained within the proposed 2007-09 biennial budget bill.

The Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship Training Program has prepared hundreds of high school juniors and seniors for rewarding careers in trade and industry. This two-year program, which canvasses twenty-one different occupational areas, combines academic rigor, relevant technical education and critical on-the-job training.

This program is critical to the future of Wisconsin's manufacturing sector. In today's global economy a highly skilled workforce is a critical requirement for economic growth. Wisconsin continues to see a high demand for the skills acquired through youth apprenticeship: skills that are easily transferred to Wisconsin's emerging high tech, high wage careers. By providing the state with a highly skilled workforce, Wisconsin is demonstrating its commitment towards fostering a competitive business environment.

Base funding for the Youth Apprenticeship Program is \$1.1 million. Governor Doyle's proposal increases the funding by \$1,629,400 over the biennium.

WEDA encourages you to support this important program.

For additional information or if you have questions, please contact me at 608-258-9506 or boyer@hamilton-consulting.com

Thank you.