



Wisconsin Economic Development Association Inc.

TO: Members, Wisconsin State Senate
FROM: Board of Directors, Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA)
RE: Special Session Senate Bill 1
DATE: January 18, 2011

Special Session Legal Reforms a Boon to Economic Development

The Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) enthusiastically supports the legal reforms embodied in Special Session SB 1. These legal reforms, coupled with other proposed changes in the Special Session call by Governor Walker, will contribute significantly toward reinvigorating Wisconsin's overall business climate.

A recent study by the Pacific Research Institute (PRI) found that, when comparing states' current tort laws and procedures, Wisconsin ranked 35th in the nation. This ranking is consistent with other nationally recognized indices that have continually down-graded Wisconsin's litigation climate during the last decade.

The proposed changes in this bill are not radical; are common sense; and, will bring us in line with the laws of most other states with whom we compete for business attraction.

A state's litigation atmosphere is a critical business development decision making factor. The passage of Special Session Senate Bill 1 will:

- Help make Wisconsin a much more attractive place to facilitate the growth of an existing business;
- Jump-start the formation of a new venture or leverage the attraction of new investments into our state.

This type of bold economic development approach is signaling a strong message that Wisconsin is open for business.

We commend Governor Scott Walker and the Wisconsin Legislature for moving swiftly and decisively in addressing Wisconsin's litigation atmosphere which has been a drain on our overall business climate.

We respectfully urge your vote for passage.