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Governor Doyle Announces \$3.8 Million Grant to Assist General Motors and Other Auto Industry Workers in South Central Wisconsin

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced more than \$3.8 million in additional employee training assistance for dislocated workers at General Motors and three other manufacturers in south central Wisconsin affected by GM's decision to cut production at the Janesville assembly plant.

Governor Doyle and Senator Russ Feingold received a commitment from the U.S. Department of Labor that more than \$1.6 million would be made available immediately to assist 785 affected workers at GM, Lear Corporation, and Logistics Services, Inc., all in Janesville, and United Industries in Beloit.

"While the economic challenges we face are very clear, this additional assistance is good news for the hardworking families affected by GM's decision to eliminate the second shift at the Janesville plant," Governor Doyle said. "I am committed to doing everything in my power to help the affected workers, not only at GM, but the other auto related manufacturers in south central Wisconsin. At the same time, we are working hard to keep the assembly plant open. We recently presented a strong, comprehensive proposal to maintain operations in Janesville and are in continued, constructive talks."

"Communities in south central Wisconsin, including Janesville and Beloit, are facing challenging times right now," Feingold said. "I am pleased to support this federal funding which will assist the state of Wisconsin and the Janesville and Beloit region as they seek to provide new job training opportunities to their highly skilled workforce. This federal grant will help local communities and the state develop better opportunities for our workers in the future."

The National Emergency Grant exceeding \$3.8 million is one of the biggest awarded to the state. When GM announced in April that it was eliminating its second shift at the Janesville assembly plant, Governor Doyle moved quickly, directing the Department of Workforce Development to apply for the NEG grant.

Services will be provided through the Rock County Job Center. This funding will be coordinated with resources available through the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. Individuals will be offered training – both in the classroom and on the job – as well as job placement services, among other services.

Governor Doyle encourages all affected workers to contact their local Job Center to inquire about services by visiting www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory or toll free at 888-258-9966.