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POCAN STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR DOYLE'S DECISION NOT TO BOUND WISCONSIN TO CAFTA

“Governor Doyle did the right thing by not signing the state of Wisconsin on to the U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Wisconsin is a special place that doesn't need an outside corporation from another country dictating our state or local laws. Governor Doyle has been an outstanding advocate for job growth in Wisconsin and not signing onto CAFTA is certainly in line with his economic development proposals that benefit Wisconsin families.”

“Signing on to bad trade agreements jeopardize Wisconsin jobs and Wisconsin laws. If a single corporation in another country that participates in a trade agreement and doesn't like a law in Wisconsin, they can sue us for breach of contract. That can include purchasing preferences for Wisconsin or American goods, affect our prevailing wage laws or not allow preferences for recycled goods. That could also affect our ability to do business with companies that have jobs in the United States over companies that outsource jobs to countries with low wages and poor worker's rights. No trade agreement should affect Wisconsin in that way.”

“It's a shame that former Governor Tommy Thompson signed Wisconsin on to the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement years ago without any input whatsoever. Now we potentially face negative trade restrictions that can affect our dairy products, our water resources and virtually every resource we have in our state. I only wish he had the vision that Governor Doyle has shown by standing up for Wisconsin workers.”