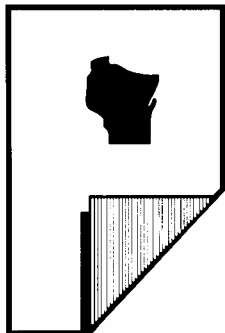


# WISCONSIN PAPER COUNCIL

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Wisconsin Paper Council Applauds Job Bill Deal**

NEENAH –The Wisconsin Paper Council endorsed today’s announcement that agreement has been reached with the Doyle Administration and Legislative leaders on the Job Creation Act of 2003.

“Governor Doyle, Speaker Gard and Majority Leader Panzer are to be commended for their leadership in crafting a compromise on this extremely important issue,” said Patrick Schillinger, President of the Wisconsin Paper Council. “Regulatory reform is needed in Wisconsin and this bill is a major step in the right direction,” he said.

Wisconsin has been the number paper producing state in the country but has been under severe stress and competition in the last three years, losing 9,000 jobs or 13% of its workforce in the state.

“Our papermakers need to be the world’s low cost producers and we need reinvestment in our aging assets,” Schillinger said. “Wisconsin’s regulatory system, however, has been a stumbling block to achieving those goals. We are not going to reduce costs, or encourage investment here, when it takes too long to work within the regulatory framework,” he said.

“We have been calling for regulatory reform since we published our report on the state of the paper industry in February of this year, and we are extremely pleased to see this bi-partisan effort to address our concerns,” Schillinger said.

The Wisconsin Paper Council is the trade association of the pulp and paper industry in Wisconsin.

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