



TOMMY G. THOMPSON

Governor
State of Wisconsin

January 17, 1998

Dear Business Leader:

We would like to invite you and your business to participate in an exciting new environmental program that could help shape Wisconsin's future.

The budget bill that I signed on October 11th included a program that both Secretary Meyer and I worked hard to develop. This program is called the Environmental Cooperation program and it is designed to make Wisconsin Business more competitive for the future.

The Wisconsin Department of Resources (DNR) has been authorized to develop pilot projects with companies from a variety of business sectors willing to test an alternative to the traditional rules and regulations approach. The DNR will enter into ten cooperative agreements, which would be specific to each of the companies and embodies a whole-facility, multi-media approach, building off an environmental management system. One of our main goals is to establish a collaborative process involving business, government, and the public in order to reach consensus that a "win" for each. The DNR will recognize superior environmental performance by providing flexibility in certain regulatory procedures. In addition, DNR will work to ensure that the federal government commits to this innovative approach as part of its "reinventing government" initiative.

This program provides those companies and their leaders an opportunity to step forward in the best Wisconsin tradition of innovation in government and business. They will be pioneers who will show the way to others. The DNR is assigning dedicated and creative staff to work with these firms in a true partnership. Together we will find new ways to save time and money for business and government alike while meeting our obligation as good environmental citizens. Please contact DNR's Linda Wiese to find out more. Her phone number is: (608) 267-3125.

Sincerely,

TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

GEORGE E. MEYER
Secretary of Department
of Natural Resources



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