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Governor Doyle Signs Legislation to Protect Property Taxpayers

Praises Legislature for Bipartisan Cooperation

GREEN BAY – Governor Jim Doyle today signed Senate Bill 122, which will protect property taxpayers by updating a tax exemption for waste treatment plants and pollution abatement equipment. This bill, which clarifies the current statutory exemption, returns \$34 million of property value to the 2007 tax assessment rolls, preventing an undue property tax burden on homeowners.

“Today we are taking another step forward for property taxpayers and for the economy of this area,” Governor Doyle said. “I applaud the Democrats and Republicans in the Legislature for working in a bi-partisan way to get this important measure passed. I ask that they use this same cooperative spirit to get a budget passed and sent to my desk immediately.”

Under the previous law, written in 1953, the exemption applied to all property purchased or constructed as a waste treatment facility used for the treatment of industrial waste or air contaminants if certain requirements were met. The Department of Revenue historically implemented this exemption, through administrative rule, to include only property used exclusively and directly in the treatment of waste that had no value.

In 2004, the exemption was expanded by the Tax Appeals Commission in its ruling in *The Newark Group, Inc. v. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue*. SB 122 restores the Department of Revenue’s interpretation of the property tax exemption in use before the *Newark* decision.

The Governor thanked Senators Dave Hansen, Robert Cowles as well as Representatives Jim Soletski and Dean Kaufert for their work on SB 122.