

# **Employers Agree: Lawsuit Changes Hurt Wisconsin**

## ***Wisconsin Industries Employing Nearly 2 Million Workers Speak Out***

The full spectrum of Wisconsin employers came together in Madison to speak out against lawsuit changes that threaten Wisconsin jobs businesses, farms and families.

“We’ve come together to oppose lawsuit changes that will hurt every industry in Wisconsin but the Trial Lawyers,” said Jim Engel, owner of Sunburst Ski Area in Kewaskum. “We have CPA’s and farmers, manufacturers and tourism attractions all telling how these changes to liability law will harm their industry.”

“We have over 50 organizations and businesses from across Wisconsin speaking out for practically every industry in our state,” said Ed Lump of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association. “If the other side got together, you’d see Trial Lawyers representing Trial Lawyers.”

Opposition to provisions buried in the state budget that would increase the number of lawsuits and the number of parties sued in each lawsuit brought the groups together.

One provision, called joint and several liability, would allow a party only 1% at fault to be forced to pay 100% of the damages in a lawsuit. Another provision would allow the person most at fault in an accident to collect from the person least at fault. A third provision would instruct the jury on how to twist the system to get more money from so-called ‘deep-pockets,’ parties with insurance, money, a home or a business.

“It is fair to hold me responsible for my actions,” said Abe Degnan, President of Degnan Design Builders. “It is unfair to make me pay for someone else’s fault, especially if that person is most responsible for the accident.”

“These provisions are unfair and costly,” added Doctor Tom Luetzow. “If this becomes law, a lot more people will be sued and everyone will pay more for insurance.”

“There couldn’t be a worse time to increase the risk and cost of having a business in Wisconsin,” said Tom Thorstad of Thorstad Chevrolet.

Among the industries represented were: health care, manufacturing, construction, retail stores, restaurants, farmers, tourism businesses, transportation, insurance, energy and financial services.

A complete list of attendees is attached.

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