

FAIR - AND - ADEQUATE

close tax loopholes

protect public structures

control property taxes

November 2010 (Corrected)

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Wisconsin Recovery- the 250,000 job solution

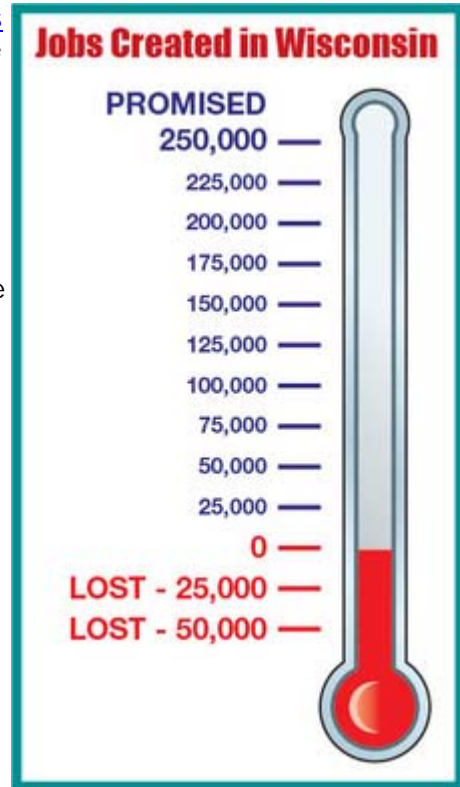
Governor-elect [Scott Walker has promised to create 250,000 jobs](#) in his first term as state leader. IWF joins groups across the state in saying -- Okay, Scott --Let's see those jobs!! To share this job watch with everyone, on January 1, we'll begin to use the **Job-o-meter** and track each step of the ladder to full employment.

One problem is arising already though. While Governor-elect Walker says Wisconsin is "Open for Business," -- there seem to be exceptions. High speed rail is not welcome here. Even though the federal government has already given Wisconsin the money, Walker says **No!** Even though the Talgo corporation is starting to build the train in central city Milwaukee where jobs are badly needed and is now being wooed to Illinois, Walker says **No!** Even though leaders from across the state say this would bring Wisconsin into the world of 21st century transportation, Walker says **No!** Even though mass transit is an environmentally friendly job creator, Walker says **No!** We may need a way to measure **less than zero** job numbers on our job-o-meter.

But when the Road Builders Assn. gave Scott Walker over \$128,000 in donations for his campaign and ask that the federal money be used for highways -- Walker says **Yes!** Apparently Wisconsin is open for businesses that support the Governor.

You take care of Momma and she'll be good to you.

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/noquarter/108064274.html>



You pick which state should get our high speed train funds!

Illinois?

Illinois transportation officials say they'll take the \$810 million in federal high-speed rail funds that Wisconsin Gov.-elect Scott Walker has said he'll reject. Illinois has received \$1.2 billion in high-speed rail funding. Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig says the state could make improvements to the Chicago-St. Louis corridor with Wisconsin's money.
<http://www.cbs58.com/index.php?aid=14813>



California?



California's US Senators are raising their hands to say they would be more than happy to take any free high-speed rail money from states who want to pass on the project. This follows a move in the states of Ohio and Wisconsin to reject the federal money for the high-speed rail system. The story got some new traction when US Transportation Secretary Roy LaHood said the Obama Administration plans to reallocate the money to other states. The Washington Post quoted LaHood as saying the money would be moved, "in a professional way in places where the money can be well spent." That's where Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer step in. AP reports the senators

told LaHood that no state was more determined to get the rail on line than California. <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/traffic/transit/Feinstein-Boxer-Give-Us-the-Money-108492609.html>

New York?

Local officials are joining the call for New York state to receive \$1.26 billion in federal funding for high-speed rail that the governors-elect in Ohio and Wisconsin recently said they would be declining by cancelling projects in those states. Andrew Cuomo, the governor-elect for New York, recently wrote a letter to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood asking that the funding from Ohio and Wisconsin be redirected to New York if it becomes available.

<http://www.examiner.com/political-buzz-in-madison/new-york-requests-wisconsin-stimulus-funds-for-high-speed-rail>



North Carolina



North Carolina and Charlotte seem sure to gain from forthcoming high-speed rail grants should Wisconsin turn away its \$810 million rail allocation.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today gave strong indications North Carolina would benefit from reallocation of \$1.2 billion targeted for similar projects in Wisconsin and Ohio.

Read more: [Wisconsin's high-speed rail funds may go to N.C. | The Business Journal](#)

Send us your pick and we'll let Transportation Secretary LaHood know which state should receive Wisconsin's money. If you want Wisconsin to keep the money, call Governor-elect Scott Walker (he's still in Milwaukee at 414-278-4211.)

Focus on the federal deficit threatens the US economy



The Deficit Commission report gets a D- for timing. While the long-term fiscal outlook must be addressed, current fiscal policy must be framed in the context of the ongoing Great Recession. The economy is running about 6% below potential, unemployment remains unacceptably high (with dim prospects for near-term improvement), and a full recovery is not expected until 2015 at the earliest. Immediate deficit reduction would slow the economic recovery enough to possibly risk a double-dip recession, and significantly more

fiscal stimulus is required to address the crisis in the labor market. The Recovery Act pulled the economy out of recession, but we now face serious economic head winds as that stimulus spending winds down and the state and local budget crisis intensifies. One wouldn't pull the I.V. out a sick patient before they have returned to health - why would we pull out the economy's one solid support - fiscal stimulus - before the recovery strengthens and unemployment falls?

The recent report by the Pew-Peterson Commission on the Deficit does not acknowledge the economic realities of the Great Recession or projections of prolonged, high rates of unemployment. The report calls for austerity measures to be introduced in 2012 and rapidly escalated well before the economy is projected to return to potential, which we view to be grossly irresponsible. By 2015, the report proposes budgetary savings of \$700 billion without specifying where those savings would come from. If extracted from the discretionary budget - including security spending - this would represent a draconian cut of 51% relative to current policy -- Less money in circulation, less jobs, less hope in communities across the country. For the full analysis see--

<http://www.ourfiscalsecurity.org/medialounge/2010/11/10/pew-peterson-commissions-debt-target-misguided-dangerous.html>

Business groups wants tax cuts for the wealthiest to expire

A new report finds it makes good business sense to let high-end Bush tax cuts expire on Dec. 31. The **Business Case for Letting High-End Tax Cuts Expire**, by Business for Shared Prosperity, says families should keep tax cuts on their income below \$250,000, but well-off taxpayers should not get extra tax cuts that won't create jobs and will cost \$700 billion over the next decade. Instead, Congress should build on constructive action like the Small Business Jobs Act and infrastructure investment needed to create jobs and be competitive in the global economy.

U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce CEO Margot Dorfman said, "The high-end Bush-era tax cuts are contributing to our financial ruin rather than our economic success. They should expire as scheduled on December 31 and put us on a better path for the New Year."

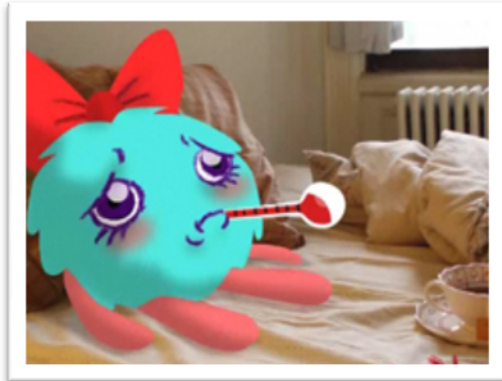
Margot Dorfman also said, "America is in the throes of the most consequential economic fight of a generation. All across our country, families are fighting for their jobs, their businesses, their homes, their children's education and their retirements. With our way of life teetering in the



balance, President Obama should be focusing like a laser on energizing consumer demand to fuel increased business revenues, job creation and saving our homes, not caving in to the reckless demands of those who want to keep America on the same failed path that lead to the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression."

<http://businessforsharedprosperity.org/news/Business+Leaders+Call+on+President%2C+Congress+to+Let+Bush%E2%80%99s+High-End+Tax+Cuts+Expire>

The giant pool of money -- why we are in a recession



The horse manure continues to pile up as right wing radio and tea party pundits blame the recession on the cost of basic community services. **IT'S NOT TRUE!**

Unfortunately, the explanations for what really happened are usually so long and technical, it's hard to take them in --much less spread the word. However, the public radio show *This American Life* had a group of economists come up with clear and interesting explanations. They start with a radio essay called -- "The giant pool of money."

This and other stories can be heard on the web at the program website. Check it out!

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/355/the-giant-pool-of-money>

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/390/return-to-the-giant-pool-of-money>

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/375/bad-bank>

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/418/toxie> (This includes a cartoon video)



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*You don't have to be afraid anymore,
because help is on the way.*

Scott Walker's victory speech -- November 2, 2010