

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 6, 2011



Contact: Nick George, President
608-255-9946
Nick.George@mwfpa.org

Brian Elliott
Dir. of Communications
608-255-9946
Brian.Elliott@mwfpa.org

Food Processors Applaud Civil Justice Reforms

The tort reform initiatives included in Governor Scott Walker's Special Session economic development package will reduce litigation and help Wisconsin food processors remain competitive, according to the Midwest Food Processors Association ([MWFPA](http://www.mwfpa.org)).

"The fear of lawsuit abuse adds to the cost of all products including food. The measures introduced by Governor Walker give businesses some assurance that they will be treated fairly in Wisconsin courts" said Nick George, President of the MWFPA. Four of the Governor's proposals in particular, will help businesses remain more competitive.

- Product Liability – Adoption of more reasonable product liability standards for manufacturers and sellers.
- Risk Contribution – Elimination of the "risk contribution" theory in manufacturing lawsuits. Wisconsin is currently the only state with the "risk contribution" doctrine.
- Expert Opinion – Adoption of sound scientific principals commonly known as the Daubert Principles.
- Punitive Damages – Puts limits on punitive damages correcting a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision that wrongly interpreted the meaning and intent of the Wisconsin Legislature.

“All four of these policies passed the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate during the 2005-06 session but were vetoed by Governor Jim Doyle”, said George. “These are not radical ideas. They have been fully researched and debated. We applaud the inclusion of these measures in the economic development package offered by Governor Walker and urge the legislature to adopt them.”

-30-