



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## Governor Doyle Signs “Keep ‘Old Glory’ American Act”

*Bill Would Ensure that Only American-made Flags Fly Over Wisconsin’s Public Buildings*

**Madison**—Today, Representative Louis Molepske, Jr. (D-Stevens Point), Representative Mark Honadel (R-Milwaukee) and Senator Jeff Plale (D-South Milwaukee) were in attendance as Governor Jim Doyle signed Assembly Bill 450, the “Keep ‘Old Glory’ American Act,” into law. Molepske, Honadel and Plale, lead authors of AB 450, noted that the bill will require all Wisconsin public buildings displaying American flags to exclusively fly American-made flags.

Statistics recently released by the United States Census Bureau show that in the year 2006 alone, the United States imported **nine million** American flags for a total value of approximately \$5.3 million dollars. Even more startling is the fact that American-made United States flags account for **less than 2%** of the total value of American flags worldwide. Many experts attribute this disparity to the fact that on average, foreign-made flags are 30 percent cheaper than their American-made counterparts.

"This legislative victory represents an excellent starting point in our continuing efforts to restore the production of American goods that have been outsourced in recent years." said Molepske. "If any one product is to be repatriated, it is fitting that we start with the American Flag, which is the most identifiable symbol of our great country and its values."

"Taxpayer dollars used to buy American flags should be purchased right here in Wisconsin," said Honadel. "This new law will also guarantee that all flags flown over our public buildings are of the utmost quality, which is appropriate and respectful."

"I want to thank the Legislature and Governor Doyle for coming together on this bill," said Plale. "This bill is great way to pay tribute to our nation's flag and to ensure that Wisconsinites are pledging their allegiance to flags made by the hard working men and women of our country."

With the Governor’s approval, Assembly Bill 450 will become 2008 Wisconsin Act 166.

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