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## **Governor backs \$9.2M for PJ expansion**

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle said Thursday he will provide for \$6 million in his budget proposal to finance a launching ramp in Sturgeon Bay that would be used by yacht builder Palmer Johnson.

PJ would share the ramp with neighboring Bay Shipbuilding Co., clearing the way for what the governor called "about 600 high-end, family-supporting jobs" over the next three years. Doyle said the facility would help the two companies remain competitive.

Doyle said the \$6 million is part of an overall \$9.2 million investment. An additional \$2 million to Palmer Johnson through the state's Department of Commerce would help the yacht builder build a new factory adjacent to its present facility, and the other \$1.2 million would go toward road access and improvements to the new boat launch.

"Companies like Bay Shipbuilding Co. and Palmer Johnson are long-standing Wisconsin companies that provide some 900 jobs in the Sturgeon Bay region," the governor said in a statement.

Palmer Johnson president Mike Kelsey Jr. has said the company has no plans to abandon its present facility. The new production shop would be designed to produce "a more organized work flow" for a new product the company plans to introduce, he said in November when the plans were first announced.