

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

May 19, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

As you might be able to hear from the sound of my voice, I'm actually recording this week's radio address from Nagoya Japan, rather than from my office in Lansing, Michigan.

We all know that jobs are being outsourced to other countries – so I'm here on a mission to insource jobs to America and to Michigan, of course. Along with our state's economic development team, I'm meeting with the CEOs and business leaders of major Japanese companies, and I'm encouraging them to create new jobs for Michigan workers back home.

During my mission to Japan last July, we brought back jobs from companies like DENSO and Tokai Rika to Southeast Michigan and West Michigan.

This year, we're having similar success. Let me tell you a little about the work that our Michigan team has been doing on the ground, and some of the good news we have to report so far.

In Tokyo, I met with executives from Konica Minolta, the global imaging technology company. Konica Minolta has agreed to expand their Grand Rapids facility, adding 81 new jobs over the next 12 months.

Our team also sat down with Meidensha, the parent company of Meiden America, a great name, a manufacturer of electrical equipment. Currently, Meiden has a small office in Novi. But I'm pleased to say that the company will be investing \$10 million in expanding its Michigan presence, creating 50 new jobs in Southeast Michigan.

That's just a snapshot of our success so far. Several other companies have agreed to create new jobs in cities like Farmington Hills, Adrian and Wixom, Michigan. I encourage you to visit our website at www.michigan.gov/gov to read about our work in Japan.

And while you're there, I hope you'll take a minute to read the good news about Whirlpool, too. This week, one of the country's most recognized brands chose Michigan for a major consolidation of its administrative operations – Whirlpool creating more than 800 jobs in Southwest Michigan.

Whirlpool's investment and the investment of the companies we've met with in Japan are proof positive that our plan to grow Michigan's economy, our competitive business climate and our commitment to preserving our great quality of life are all paying off.

This week in Japan has made me even prouder of Michigan – the business people I've met with and worked with here have been so excited about the opportunities to grow in our state. And I am too. So you can bet that I'll be back on the road soon, going anywhere and doing anything to create jobs in Michigan.

Thank you for listening.