

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Friday, October 7, 2005

Hello this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Today I had the privilege of speaking at a national conference sponsored by Governing magazine. Governing magazine recognized Michigan this year as the third best-managed state in the nation.

This is such an honor for Michigan to be in a national spotlight highlighting our efforts to create a responsible government. And it was a great opportunity to speak about what we in state government have done to put our fiscal house in order and to grow our economy to create jobs.

In three consecutive budgets, my colleagues and I have resolved nearly 4 billion dollars in deficits by tightening the belt of government.

We've done everything from selling off state-owned cars and planes to calling in state cell phones to turning off the lights at night in state buildings.

And of course, all this means that we are now operating state government with the fewest number of employees since 1974 and the lowest inflation adjusted tax revenues since 1970.

But that doesn't mean we are doing less for citizens. Last week I signed a budget that keeps us in the black, that protects our quality of life and that grows our economy. It increases funding to historic levels for public schools and it also protects and expands health care for our most vulnerable citizens.

Michigan's constitution requires that we have a balanced budget. But our work to grow the economy requires that we operate a lean government that doesn't spend more than it takes in and that prioritizes spending based upon need.

As we work to attract job providers through our Michigan Economic Development Corporation and our jobs missions abroad, it's so important that companies know they are dealing with a state that will ensure a great quality of life and a great environment to operate a business in. That means running a tight ship in Lansing.

Just this past week, three new high-tech businesses opened facilities in Michigan – a new World Engine plant in Dundee, a Neogen Corporation manufacturing facility in Lansing and a the new \$30 million FT Techno of America in Fowlerville. These businesses need to know that they can continue to grow in and work in a state that is nimble and efficient and responsive to their needs.

Cutting wasteful spending also means that we'll have more resources to devote to job creation. I've called for an economic development package that gives a \$4,000 scholarship to every student in Michigan who pursues college or technical training. I've

called for a \$2 billion investment in diversifying our economy to attract new job providers.

We want a government that is lean, but not mean. A government that is smart.

These are important steps to grow jobs and build a great workforce for the future. The more efficiently we spend our resources – the citizens’ resources – the more successful we’ll be in these steps to grow our Michigan economy.

Thank you for listening.