

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Friday, October 20, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

We've heard a lot lately about the challenges facing the Big 3 and Michigan's manufacturing economy.

But this week there's been some encouraging news in Michigan – signs that our economic transformation is beginning to take hold.

In September, we took a major step in diversifying our economy. That's when the first award winners from our 21st Century Jobs competition were announced. 61 companies and projects are coming to Michigan and hiring people in Michigan in cutting edge fields like alternative energy, life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

Just this Monday, the board that oversees that 21st Century Jobs Fund expanded the first round of awards, adding another \$35 million to fund another 24 companies. That means that now there are 85 companies and entrepreneurs, in communities across our state, creating thousands of new jobs thanks to the 21st Century Jobs Fund.

On Tuesday, there was more exciting news. Eight companies are growing and expanding right here in Michigan creating more than 2,600 brand new jobs.

BASF Corporation, the international chemical and plastics company, is relocating its R&D, administrative, and manufacturing operations from Wisconsin to Wyandotte creating 175 new jobs.

American Litho, a subsidiary of Konica Minolta is expanding its production facility and moving its headquarters from New York creating 163 new jobs in the Grand Rapids area. I met with their corporate leaders during my last trip to Japan and am thrilled we were able to convince them to make Michigan their corporate home.

AG Simpson Automotive Systems is expanding its assembly production, creating 130 new jobs. The company is even reopening an idled plant!

We beat out Tennessee for Karmann Manufacturing, creating 375 new jobs in Plymouth.

Backyard Storage Solutions is opening a new facility in Monroe, adding 80 new jobs.

Ryder Integrated Logistics is expanding its operations in Novi creating 400 new jobs. And for that one we beat out Dallas, Texas and India and China.

Employers are choosing Michigan because they know that we are committed to their success.

We have a competitive business climate and the best workers in the world! On a level playing field, no one can out-compete our Michigan workers.

The challenge to our economy is clear – we must support our existing job providers while diversifying into new areas. That’s what my comprehensive economic plan is all about.

From our \$2 billion 21st Century Jobs Fund’s investment in new technologies and new jobs to our \$600 million in tax cuts for manufactures to our world-class workforce, Michigan right now has got what it takes to attract new employers. This is our moment. And I am committed to going anywhere and doing anything to continue to bring jobs to communities all across our great state.

Thank you for listening.