

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
July 13, 2007

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Next week, the National Governors Association is holding its annual meeting, and we're hosting it in Traverse City, Michigan. Governors from 38 states across the nation are expected to travel to Michigan to share ideas, to talk about policy, and to plan for the future.

It promises to be a productive meeting – I'm thrilled at this opportunity to showcase to the nation the best that Michigan has to offer.

Many of the Governors and business leaders who are attending will be getting their first glimpse of a beautiful sunset over the sparkling waters of Northern Michigan, they'll be getting their first taste of fresh Michigan-grown cherries or corn on the cob. Like our great Michigan.org advertisements say, they'll be having their first Pure Michigan experiences. And I'm hopeful that their visit will lead to more trips and gatherings in Michigan – for business and for pleasure. The more people we bring here, the more people will want to come back. And that's great for our economy, so I say keep'em coming!

Speaking of our economy, strategies for economic growth are at the top of the agenda this National Governors Association annual meeting.

As vice-chair of the Economic Development and Commerce committee, I'll be co-hosting a session on innovative steps we can take to remain competitive in the global marketplace.

As a state that's already using innovation to address our unique economic challenges, Michigan is the perfect place to explore how innovation can ensure economic competitiveness.

Michigan has incredible resources – our natural environment is second to none, our colleges and universities are tops in the world, our workforce is well-educated and well-trained, and we have a manufacturing base and research and development facilities that makes other states and nations envious.

We also have a unique opportunity to bring together private businesses, academic institutions, and the public sector to foster innovation to grow and diversify our economy. Many of the strategies that other Governors and states are considering – and even implementing – may well be great matches for Michigan. At our economic development meeting, I'll be paying close attention to the ideas that businesses are putting forward, and I'll be talking about what we are doing right here in Michigan.

Our 21st Century Jobs Fund, our \$4,000 Michigan Promise scholarship, and our competitive business tax structure are just a few of the innovations that we are putting in place to help Michigan citizens thrive in this new economy.

With the National Governors Association coming to Michigan next week, we'll get some great attention and publicity for these efforts, and we'll have an excellent opportunity to develop further strategies to make sure that Michigan is the best place in the world for us and our children to live, learn and earn.

Thank you for listening, and I'll check in next week.