

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Friday, November 11, 2005

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

I recently shook hands on an agreement with Republican leaders of the House and the Senate to pass a bipartisan jobs package for Michigan.

This jobs package would be a huge victory for our citizens, for workers and for our businesses.

It would diversify our economy, it would create thousands of jobs of the future and make sure all of our children will be able find good-paying jobs right here in Michigan.

It would cut taxes for our job providers and give critical relief to our struggling manufacturers, like Delphi.

It would be a victory against outsourcing and for the “insourcing” of new jobs, and new industries, and new businesses and a whole new era of growth for Michigan’s economy.

Unfortunately, less than a week later, the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader are now walking away from our bipartisan agreement.

The longer it takes to pass this critical legislation, the longer Michigan has to wait for new jobs. That’s why I fully expect the Legislature to come back to the table and put a jobs package on my desk that is true to the agreement we reached only a few days ago.

But, in the meantime, my administration will not wait to act. We’ll continue our work to create jobs in Michigan. And that work is paying off.

Through our economic development efforts this year alone, we have convinced 31 companies to choose Michigan over more than a dozen other states, including economic heavyweights like North Carolina, Texas and New Jersey. As a result, 50,000 jobs will be created and retained and almost \$2 billion invested in Michigan’s economy.

The MI Opportunity Partnership, which is our effort to match out-of-work citizens with thousands of job opportunities that exist today, has placed some 13,000 unemployed workers in good-paying jobs just since May.

In addition, public investment projects through our Jobs Today Initiative have meant increased economic activity throughout the state. Already in 2005, more than 160 projects have been initiated, creating more than 3,000 jobs.

With the cooperation of the Legislature, the jobs package will be another step – a great, bipartisan step – in continuing our work to grow Michigan’s economy. I hope to take this step soon, as citizens do, to create jobs across the state and to create opportunity for decades to come.

Thank you for listening.