

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

May 12, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

At a time when some seem determined to ship good paying jobs overseas, I believe in doing everything possible to create good-paying jobs right here in Michigan. And I am committed to going anywhere, and doing anything, to fight for those jobs.

That's why next week, along with economic development officials from Michigan, I'll be traveling to Japan for the second time in ten months.

I'll meet face to face with business leaders and executives to persuade them that Michigan is the best place in the world for them to grow their business; the best place in the world to grow jobs; and the best place to find skilled, qualified workers.

Japan might be half a world away, but the results of our previous investment mission can be seen in communities all across the state.

Last year, I met with companies like DENSO Corporation, and Tokai Rika. Those companies today are creating new jobs for our citizens in Michigan.

DENSO Corporation is expanding its facility in Southfield, it's creating 250 new jobs there.

Tokai Rika is investing \$50 million to grow its operations in Battle Creek, Jackson and Plymouth, which will create 230 new jobs in Michigan.

All together, we convinced 10 Japanese companies to expand in Michigan, creating 630 new jobs and investing \$116 million in their Michigan-based operations.

Next week, in Japan, I'll be meeting with 20 companies that have the potential to help us expand and diversify our economic horizons.

This is a short investment mission, but it's also part of a long-term strategy that starts right here at home.

Michigan has the most aggressive and most comprehensive jobs plan of any state in the nation. It's a plan that we're putting to work – and it's a plan that's working. Just this week, in fact, Whirlpool announced that it will be relocating its newly acquired Maytag headquarters from other states to Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Our comprehensive plan is also helping me to convince businesses from around the world to come to Michigan.

When I travel to Boston or Chicago or California – or overseas to Japan and Germany – I tell business leaders about our \$2 billion 21st Century Jobs Fund.

I tell them about the \$600 million in tax cuts I signed into law to encourage businesses to insource jobs to Michigan.

I tell them about our efforts to build the highly skilled workforce they need – efforts like investing more in public education than ever before, and adopting a rigorous core curriculum to help our students prepare for success in college and in life.

And most of all, I tell them that, as Governor, I'm going to do whatever it takes to help them succeed, right here in Michigan.

Thank you for listening.