Texas Enterprise Fund- Martifer Announcement

*Note - Gov. Perry frequently departs from prepared remarks.

Monday, September 08, 2008

Thank you [Rep] Drew [Darby, District 72] for that introduction and thank you for going to bat for West Texas when you're in Austin.

You folks here don't need me to tell you that Drew gets it done in Austin. He's a tax cutter, a champion for education and a man of principle.

It's also nice to see Senator Bob Duncan here as well.

Mayor [J.W.] Lown, it's great to be here in your beautiful town and a pleasure to celebrate new jobs heading this way.

Fred [Hernandez, SA CoC Chairman], I'm sorry I wasn't able to see to your performance at the Stamford 4th of July celebration, but congratulations on your victory in the double-mugging event.

The strength and stamina you showed there probably helped you in your efforts to get the word out on all this area has to offer to businesses.

Having folks like Tommy Hiebert and the San Angelo City Development Corporation on your team makes it that much easier.

[Tom Green County] Judge [Mike] Brown, it's great to see you today as well.

Dealing with Hurricane Gustav this past week has shown people the vital role that county judges play in leading our state.

And, finally, Antonio [Pontes, CEO, Martifer Energy], it is a real pleasure for me to welcome you and Martifer Energy to Texas.

I am happy to admit that I am biased, but you could not have chosen a better place to build wind turbines than here in West Texas.

As you know, the wind energy industry is expanding rapidly across the country, but West Texas is pretty much the epicenter of that growth.
It’s no accident that our state leads the nation in installed wind generation capacity.

Some might say that’s because there is no shortage of wind here in West Texas, and that’s not including what’s been whistling across this podium this afternoon.

I would agree to that, but I’d also credit the fact that Texans understand energy and will work hard to produce it.

We Texans are proud of our role as the nation’s leader in energy production, energy of all kinds.

That’s why I signed Senate Bill 20 back in 2005 and established a renewable energy goal for our state, targeting 5,880 megawatts of production capacity by 2015.

In true Texas style, we anticipate reaching that goal later this year, a full six years ahead of schedule.

Not surprising since we’re building out our capacity faster than any other U.S. state.

Just last year, nearly $3 billion worth of wind-powered electric generators were installed, twice as much as any other state.

This addition of more than 1,600 megawatts of capacity bumped up our total wind capacity by 59 percent.

As you know, capacity is a good thing, but becomes great when it is put to work.

That’s why I was pleased to see our Public Utility Commission approve a plan to build 2,400 miles of new transmission lines and facilities to connect these turbines to the grid.

That investment could more than triple our state’s current capacity for wind power, and we’re going to need it.

With a population growing at a rate of roughly 1,000 people per day and companies expanding or relocating their businesses in Texas, our energy needs will only increase.

Our robust economy has created nearly 1.2 million net new jobs since 2003 and almost half the new jobs created in the U.S. over the past twelve months.

Those jobs have come from companies who understand Texas is a great place to business, companies like Martifer Energy.

It is a real pleasure to welcome Martifer to Texas. With all due respect to the cities outside Texas that competed for your facility, I believe you chose very wisely.

We welcome your company’s investment of approximately $40 million into this facility and are excited that you’ll be creating 225 jobs for the San Angelo economy.

That commitment on your part has led to the state of Texas committing to this effort as well. I am pleased to announce that our Texas Enterprise Fund will be investing $945,000 in this new facility.

That is part of our ongoing effort since 2005 to invest economic dollars where they make an essential difference: the creation of jobs for Texans.
Since its inception, the Enterprise Fund has closed the deal on projects generating more than 51,800 new jobs and $13.7 billion in capital investment in the state.

I’d say that’s a worthwhile outcome.

So, to everyone here today, I say congratulations on your efforts to bring jobs to Texas.

It’s nice to know that the winds of West Texas are being converted into jobs, paychecks and power for the people of Texas and beyond.

May God bless this undertaking and may He continue to bless the great state of Texas.