Gov. Perry Announces SIPOCO Chooses Cuero for Manufacturing Facility

Texas Enterprise Fund Investment to Create More Than 100 New Jobs

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

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Thank you Mayor [Randy] Saenz [Cuero] for that introduction and thank you all for being here today. It's always a pleasure to be in Cuero, home of the fighting Gobblers, and Ruby Begonia, reigning champ of the Great Gobbler Gallop, especially on such a happy occasion.

We're here to discuss another ray of Texas light, in the midst of some dark economic times around the world, as new jobs are headed to Cuero.

Although Texas has done well during the global economic crisis, there are still too many Texas families dealing with the challenges of joblessness. That's why we consider job creation our number one goal, and work so hard to preserve an economic climate where innovation is rewarded, and employers have the best chance to succeed.

I believe those efforts contributed to a well-known economist predicting Texas “last in and first out” of this current economic crisis. He justified that by citing our job growth at the end of 2009, and an unemployment rate that has stayed nearly two points below the national average.

According to the Workforce Commission, our unemployment rate is the lowest among the nation's ten largest states, and we produced more private sector jobs than any other state in the nation over the past ten years. Forbes Magazine says our debt level the lowest of the ten largest states.

Texas was recently named the top exporting state in the country for the eighth straight year, and we're still home to more Fortune 500...
companies than any other state.

These remarkable numbers indicate an economy with a strong core and a state government committed to strong fiscal discipline and willing to stick to the basics.
The success of our state is built primarily on the efforts of hardworking Texans, undertaken in a climate shaped by a simple set of rules.

First, we don't spend all the money, so we have a balanced budget and billions of dollars set aside for a rainy day. Second, we have established a regulatory climate that is predictable, so that employers know what to expect when they're risking their capital.

Third, we reformed our legal system to cut down on over-suing which has improved access to healthcare all across our state. Fourth, we have worked to create an accountable school system that is better preparing our children to compete in the workforce.

Those principles apply in the state capitol, just like they apply in small towns, in businesses, and in family finances. Those principles and that legendary Texas work ethic continue to attract employers who know that they'll get the chance to succeed in Texas.

The latest employer to take advantage of our state's favorable business climate is SIPCO, one of the nation's top producers of industrial power transmission products. I'm here to announce that Texas is investing $300,000 out of our Texas Enterprise Fund, to help SIPCO expand their manufacturing operations into Cuero.

This new facility will enable SIPCO to reduce its dependence on foreign suppliers, while giving them expanded access to a workforce whose dedication and work ethic, have established "Made in Texas" as a symbol for quality and precision the world over.

This new facility will create over 100 new jobs for Texans, and bring in more than $6 million in capital investment.

The Enterprise Fund was created for this very purpose, to close deals that bring jobs to our state. We also created the Enterprise Fund to encourage businesses already in Texas to stay here and grow here.

You're clearly doing something right in this area. DeWitt County had more jobs when 2009 ended than when the year began, something a whole lot of other counties across America would like to say, but can't.

SIPCO's expansion here in Cuero is the culmination of a collaborative effort between the Texas Enterprise Fund, civic and business leaders in Cuero and DeWitt County, and the Cuero Economic Development Foundation.

Over the past seven years, this approach has been applied all across Texas, in towns big and small, securing nearly 52,000 new Texas jobs, and more than $14.3 billion in capital investment that could have gone elsewhere.

Efforts like this to keep jobs in Texas, along with the paychecks that go with them, are entirely worth the investment.

On behalf of more than 24 million Texans, I congratulate SIPCO on this expansion and wish you success in your efforts.