Gov. Perry Lauds Still-Strong Texas Economy
Celebrates ribbon cutting at new Prestige-Ameritech facility in North Texas
*Note - Gov. Perry frequently departs from prepared remarks.

Monday, March 29, 2010

Thank you, Senator Nelson for that introduction and thank you all for joining us to celebrate some good news for North Richland Hills, for the Metroplex, and for Texas.

None of us are strangers to the steady stream of bad news that has accompanied the global economic crisis, but Texans have gotten a higher-than-average amount of economic good news over the past few years.

Here in Texas, we have worked hard to create and preserve a job-friendly and economic climate, where innovation is rewarded, and employers have the best chance to succeed.

Here today, we are seeing more fruits of those labors as we welcome the return of a key manufacturer to this area, and the 250 or so jobs that accompany the revival of this facility.

Those jobs are a tribute to what I consider that unique “can-do” spirit that has been part of our state’s culture since the beginning, and that Texas work ethic we all know so well.

Those qualities thrive in the economic environment we have worked to foster with a fiscally disciplined approach at the state level.

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 building blocks make Texas much more attractive to employers, because they know they can focus on creating jobs, not fighting frivolous lawsuits, keeping up with ever-changing regulations, or re-training their workers.

I think I speak for our legislators here with us today, for Senator Nelson and Representative Hancock, when I say that it makes me proud to see our efforts in Austin, encourage entrepreneurs like the folks at Prestige-Ameritech.

The jobs they are bringing back to North Richland Hills will lead to paychecks that feed families, pay mortgages and fund education.

The jobs they are creating are part of a great overall trend for Texas, where 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.

In the manufacturing sector, Texas gained 2,400 jobs in January, and 2,900 in February, which represents the highest monthly gain in manufacturing employment since June 2006.

Jobs like these help keep our unemployment rate a point-and-a-half below the national average…and our confidence very strong. That confidence is bolstered by the fact that Texas is still the top exporting state in the country, and still home to more Fortune 500 companies than any other state.

It is clear that our economy has a very strong core.

I want to congratulate Dan Reese and Mike Bowen, for having the courage to pursue your vision, of a company that not only creates good jobs, but also produces an essential medical item that plays a key role in the control of disease.

I commend you for your success, I encourage you to continue striving, and I thank you for making our state a better, healthier place to live.

May God bless you and, through you, may He continue to bless the great state of Texas.