

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Friday, December 30, 2005

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This New Years, my resolution to the people of Michigan is this: I'll continue to go anywhere and do anything to grow our economy and bring jobs here. And I am totally resolved to pursue the economic plan we've put in place over the past 12 months – because it's a plan that is already working to diversify our economy and to create jobs in our state today.

Consider the progress in 2005, especially in this past month:

We created a \$2 billion 21st Century Jobs for Michigan Fund that will invest in the high-tech industries of our next century economy and create tens of thousands of jobs that will keep our children in Michigan. We are on course to diversify our economy.

We passed \$600 million in tax cuts and incentives for our manufacturers, including Delphi, to help keep jobs and create jobs in the state of Michigan.

Our MI Opportunity Partnership has already matched almost 17,000 unemployed workers with jobs and our Jobs Today Initiative has accelerated almost \$3 billion in public infrastructure projects like rebuilding roads and bridges and sewers, putting thousands of construction workers to work this construction season.

All together, just this past year, direct efforts by my administration have helped to create or retain 93,000 jobs – and we convinced 132 companies to invest more than \$3.7 billion in Michigan in 2005 alone.

What a great way to start out 2006 – and what a great reason to continue our work on our economic plan to move Michigan forward.

We also made great strides this year in educating our kids, protecting our families, and enhancing our quality of life. Funding, for example, is at record levels for schools this year, thanks to a \$300 million increase in K-12 education. We're asking our schools as well to help students achieve higher standards. Project S.A.F.E. Streets has removed more than 1,600 violent fugitive felons from our neighborhoods. 32,000 more people have prescription drug coverage thanks to our MiRx discount card.

Michigan is setting the right course to diversify our economy, to create good paying jobs and to protect our exceptional quality of life.

I look forward to another year of growth and progress in Michigan. And I wish you and your family the very best for 2006.

Thank you for listening, and have a safe and happy and healthy New Year.