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Perry Says Texas Economy Bolstered by Economic Development Efforts

Job Creation and Business Exports Helping to Fuel State Economic Growth

VICTORIA - Gov. Rick Perry today told regional business leaders at the Golden Crescent Regional Economic Development Summit that Texas is a leader in the nation's economic recovery and continued efforts to recruit and retain business will continue to pay off across the state.

"We can build a better Texas one new job at a time," Perry said. "To me, job creation is about much more than new revenue to fund government spending. It's about creating opportunities for families so they can afford their dreams."

Perry noted that Texas has experienced job gains for nine straight months, equating to 112,000 more Texas jobs filled since last fall. He also noted that in the first quarter of this year exports to Mexico increased 22 percent and the state surpassed California as the leading exporting state in the nation.

"Texas is the front porch to the Latin American marketplace, and the free trade zone that can bring prosperity to people north and south of our international border with Mexico." Perry said.

In addition to geography, Perry credited the state's low taxes, the Texas Enterprise Fund and recent lawsuit reform efforts as key factors in Texas' job creation successes. Established last year, the \$295 million Texas Enterprise Fund has already contributed to closing numerous deals throughout the state, which will bring upwards of 13,000 new jobs and more than \$5 billion in new private investment to the Texas economy. Perry mentioned companies such as Texas Instruments, Citgo, Home Depot and Koyo as examples of relocation or expansion deals closed using the Texas Enterprise Fund.

"The enterprise fund is not only helping large urban areas, it is helping small and medium-sized towns too," Perry said. "If Victoria hooks a prospective employer on the line, call my office and we will see what we can do to help reel them in."