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Gov. Rick Perry Touts Strong Texas Economy at Workforce Innovations Conference

SAN ANTONIO – In a speech to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Workforce Innovations Conference, Gov. Rick Perry today said that the growing Texas economy is a sign to the rest of the nation that Texas is a great place to do business. Perry also lauded the strong partnership that Texas has developed with San Antonio based Toyota.

“In Texas, we have been working hard to keep taxes low, to eliminate frivolous lawsuits and to build a stronger job climate and our growing economy is showing the fruits of that labor,” Perry said. “Since September of last year, our state has experienced nine straight months of job growth which translates into 112,000 new net jobs for Texas workers. Additionally, we are now the nation’s largest exporter and our exports to Mexico are up 22 percent in the first quarter of this year.”

Perry said that four of the top eight capital investments announced in 2003 are in Texas – Toyota, Texas Instruments, ExxonMobil and Sematech – for a combined total of \$5 billion. Three of the top six job creation projects in the nation involved Texas expansions and relocations: Toyota, Radio Shack and Countrywide Mortgage. Also, Texas had the largest single job announcement in the first quarter of 2004 with the expansion of Vought Aircraft which not only will bring 3,000 additional jobs but maintain the 3,000 existing jobs in Texas.

“Texas is wide open for investment, growth and job creation. We have more than a million Texans in college, meaning the workforce will soon be flooded with highly skilled workers who represent the labor force of the future,” said Perry. “When we create more jobs in Texas we create more revenue for investment in education, health care, transportation and the environment and that is good news for our children and our future.”

Perry noted that San Antonio has benefited greatly from the growing economy including Toyota’s \$800 million investment that will bring 2,000 direct jobs, thousands of spin-off jobs and a \$100 million investment by Maxim Integrated Products, which will mean 600 high-tech jobs for San Antonio.

“Toyota’s and Maxim’s decision to move to San Antonio reminds us once again that the best government jobs program is one where the private sector does the work,” Perry said.