

# Ohio Department of Development

# NEWS RELEASE

**Bob Taft, Governor**  
**Bruce Johnson, Lt. Governor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **JOHNSON TOUTS OHIO'S BUSINESS BENEFITS IN TEXAS**

AUSTIN, TX – Lieutenant Governor Bruce Johnson is participating in an economic development mission in Austin, Texas, where he is meeting with leaders of Texas-based companies that have operations in Ohio and/or firms interested in learning more about the benefits of doing business in the Buckeye State. To educate the nation's business community of Ohio's many positive business attributes, Johnson, as state development director, and Governor Bob Taft have embarked on 16 domestic business missions since November 2005, which have included face-to-face meetings with corporate decision-makers representing 67 companies.

“Ohio has become more business friendly with tort reform, a new tax structure and new programs and incentives designed to encourage new investment and job creation in Ohio,” said Johnson. “With our domestic economic development missions, we are promoting the changes that make Ohio the premiere business location for companies interested in a Midwest presence. By proactively taking Ohio's message to the rest of the nation, we are giving our state an edge in attracting new investment that will ultimately result in the creation of good jobs for Ohioans.”

Lt. Governor Johnson and Governor Taft have traveled to the east coast, the west coast, the Midwest, and now with Texas, are delivering Ohio's message to the south. Lt. Governor Johnson's previous domestic economic development missions have been to: Pittsburgh; Indianapolis; Louisville; Boston; Detroit; and Chicago.

While in Texas, Johnson is meeting with representatives of two companies that currently have Ohio operations: Dell, Inc., which in 2004 invested in its operation located in West Chester (Butler County), creating more than 900 jobs; and Temple-Inland, Inc., one of the nation's largest corrugated packaging companies, which provides jobs for 512 Ohio workers at operations located in Marion (Marion County), Madison (Lake County), Middletown (Butler County) and Streetsboro (Portage County). Lt. Governor Johnson is also meeting with three companies that are interested in learning more about the benefits Ohio has to offer businesses. They include: LabNow, Inc.; International Semantech; and National Instruments Corporation.

To date, Ohio's domestic economic development missions have generated \$13 million in new investment and 300 new jobs, with additional announcements expected in the near future.