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Exciting, Unprecedented Times in West Virginia Economic Development



Mitch Carmichael
West Virginia Department
of Economic Development

Mitch Carmichael currently serves as Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Economic Development. He previously served in the West Virginia Senate from 2013 to 2021. During that time, he served as Senate President/Lieutenant Governor (2017-2021) and Senate Majority Leader (2015-2017). Prior to his service in the Senate, Carmichael was elected to six consecutive terms in the West Virginia House of Delegates, where he served on the Committees of Finance, Judiciary, Education, and Rules. In addition to his public service, Carmichael is an accomplished businessman with over 25 years of private sector experience in the technology and communications industry.

Great jobs, abundant opportunities, and new industries are finding a welcoming home in West Virginia. On a regional, national, and international scale, our state is winning new business at a torrid clip. West Virginia is beating states many times our size and delivering incredible victories for our citizens. The Justice administration has ushered in the most thrilling and exciting time in the history of West Virginia Economic Development. The citizens of our state are enjoying unprecedented success. We have so much for which to be thankful and many reasons to celebrate.

A multitude of world class companies have recently undertaken concerted and diligent efforts to determine the best place in America to locate their new factories, invest significant capital, and create thousands of

saying “YES” to West Virginia for their most important corporate investments: Nucor, Commercial Metals, Berkshire Hathaway, Precision Castparts, Owens & Minor, Form Energy, Our Next Energy “ONE”, Pure Watercraft, Green Power Motor, Omnis Technology, AmeriCarbon, Arch Coal, Alcon, Gestamp, Papier-Mettler, Mountaintop Beverage, etc., etc... The list goes on and on. Dozens of companies are selecting West Virginia as the best place in America to live, work, invest, and raise a family. These victories represent thousands upon thousands of highly paid jobs for our citizens. West Virginia is rapidly moving forward by embracing the changing economic landscape and delivering incredible opportunities for families across our state. We are winning because of our ability to embrace change and shape events.

“The people of West Virginia will now have the opportunity to work in exciting, future-oriented jobs that enable families to live and thrive in our home state.”

jobs. It’s incredibly gratifying and rewarding to proclaim that West Virginia is winning the competition for these great manufacturing jobs! The people of West Virginia will now have the opportunity to work in exciting, future-oriented jobs that enable families to live and thrive in our home state.

A quick summary of the most recent significant West Virginia victories reveals a business portfolio that is unrivaled in scope and impact. Many of the world’s largest companies are

The willingness and strength of our citizens to adapt to dynamic market realities is a hallmark of our ability to compete and win on a global scale. It is noteworthy that nearly all the companies investing in West Virginia and creating thousands of direct/indirect jobs are embracing renewable energy sources and their corresponding products.

Companies are encouraged by West Virginia’s unique and ideal position to lead the energy revolution in America by supplying an “all



of the above” energy portfolio. Our citizens recognize, respect, and honor this state’s stalwart commitment to traditional extractive industries, while simultaneously welcoming new, innovative companies that expand opportunities for our citizens. Whether in the form of coal, oil and gas, or renewable fuel sources, West Virginia energy will power the manufacturing renaissance occurring in America. Because of West Virginia’s “all of the above” energy strategy, this state has become renowned as the best place in America to locate advanced manufacturing businesses.

It is encouraging to note that the economic incentives, which were required to win these incredible opportunities and the thousands of associated West Virginia jobs, received overwhelming support from the West Virginia legislature, passing with margins exceeding three to one. This significant margin of victory is a terrific signal to industry and to future generations of West Virginians for even greater prosperity. Governor Justice and our team at the West Virginia Department of Economic Development have led the charge to grow and diversify

the West Virginia economy. These leaders have demonstrated the ability to embrace change and make it work to the advantage of our citizens.

Obviously, there will always be loud, yet uninformed, voices seeking to undermine progress by clinging to the status quo. Just as there were folks in the last century who fought the adoption of automobiles by clinging to horse-drawn carriages and buggy whips, so will there always be those that resist progress and change. West Virginia resoundingly rejects these shrill and fright-filled voices that attempt to hold back our progress and thwart our prosperity. Our citizens deserve the right to compete for great jobs in new and emerging industries. As Albert Einstein said, “The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.”

Evidence of our embrace of diversified economic growth is the excitement and enthusiasm displayed by the City of Weirton, West Virginia in welcoming Form Energy as the newest corporate citizen to West Virginia. Form Energy develops, manufactures, and commercializes a new class of

cost-effective, environmentally friendly, multi-day energy storage systems that will enable a reliable, sustainable, and renewable electric grid. Form Energy has pledged over \$350 million in new capital investments toward the project and committed to providing over 750 advanced manufacturing jobs in Weirton. The jobs pay an average salary of \$63,000 per year and provide full healthcare benefits. These type of jobs support families, rebuild communities, and provide future advancement opportunities for our citizens. As Form Energy progresses from gigafactory construction to commencement of operations at a new high-tech, state-of-the-art facility, West Virginia looks forward to celebrating in their success and recognizing the many contributions of our citizens who will enjoy meaningful and profitable careers within the organization. In short, we are thrilled to welcome Form Energy to West Virginia.

The mutually agreed upon and jointly signed MOA between Form Energy and the state of West Virginia provides

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