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Jan. 15, 2013

Gov. Kasich touts Toledo at auto show



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Tuesday, Ohio Governor John Kasich met with auto industry executives at Cobo Center in Detroit. The goal was to further the relationship between the industry leaders and the state of Ohio to find innovative ways to help companies succeed.

"We think we have a very good environment for companies to do more," Governor Kasich said. "Chrysler is doing to do more in terms of their Toledo operation and Honda is doing a lot more."

Honda already makes the popular Accord in Ohio. Kasich says the company is now working to find a location in the state to begin production of the Acura NSX Supercar.

In the meantime, Jeep is in the process of unveiling a brand new SUV to replace the Liberty. There is very little information being released about the new model. The company said it will be built in Toledo much like the Jeep Wrangler. The Governor says he has confidence the Toledo workforce will rise to the occasion.

"We have ready-trained, quality workforce that can handle the demand of producing these vehicles, it's fantastic," Kasich said.

On top of all that he says his administration is still working to bring more automotive investments to the Buckeye state.

"We would like to have more suppliers and more vehicles built here."



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Governor Kasich stops at North American International Auto Show

By Eric Wildstein



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DETROIT, MI -- Ohio Governor Jon Kasich rolled into the North American International Auto Show on Tuesday, to take a look at the hottest new models in the industry.

Kasich led the media through the showroom as he toured the Chevrolet, GMC, and Chrysler exhibits. He learned about models such as the Corvette, Charger, and even electric-powered vehicles like the Chevrolet Volt.

"I think shorter term, to me, it's hybrids and C.N.G. vehicles that companies are going to be focused on," said Kasich. He added, "In the future you're going to see an incredible addition of aids to help drivers be safe."

The governor alluded to the state's "aggressive agenda" to help continue the growth of the auto industry in Ohio. He described a good working partnership with Chrysler as a stimulus to the industry.

"He's excited about Toledo," Kasich said of Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne. "Of the workforce to understand the principles that the company itself has to promote."

Kasich marveled at the grandeur of the NAIAS, and the hard work of the event staff and organizers. He called the auto industry "As American as Apple Pie."



Jan 15, 2013

Governor Kasich meets with automakers at Detroit Auto Show

By Marissa Sherer



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Governor John Kasich spending the day with our neighbors to the north, meeting with automakers at the Detroit Auto Show, learning about new technology and how to attract that business to the Buckeye State.

Marissa Sherer spent the day in Detroit and has more on the governor's trip.

"One of the things that came up is CNG, compressed natural gas vehicles. I was actually here a year ago and someone brought it up but you can see that the market they feel is growing on this so we have a program in Ohio to try to build an infrastructure to support CNG vehicles," Governor Kasich said after meeting with automakers on Tuesday.

After meeting with automakers Governor Kasich says CNG vehicles are the wave of the future. Ohio already has a program in place to build an infrastructure to support everything that goes into manufacturing the vehicles.

"This is a consumer demand and issues of infrastructure, how do you get the gas to the compressing stations, can you get the fleets involved," Kasich said.

Kasich says Ohio already has a strong auto industry. He says it's because the state is more business friendly than it was a few years ago.

"I run Ohio as a CEO and not as a politician and they understand that. I don't just talk political jibberjabber. It's what makes the most sense and we create a business environment and continue to do that," Kasich said.

Kasich wants to continue that growth. He's heading to Davos, Switzerland for the World Economic Forum later this month, hoping to meet with Japanese automakers to bring their business to the buckeye state.

"We have a good location. We're within 600 miles of 60 percent of the country we have very skilled workers in Ohio, we don't have any significant labor problems and the cost of doing business is low," he said.

In just the past few months a number of automakers have already invested in Ohio's auto industry.

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