

NOTE: *“Just [Gov. Kasich] being here is fantastic,” said Roger Wood, chief executive of Dana Corp., based in Maumee, Ohio. “Being in Davos allows that kind of dialogue to happen. There’s an audience here unlike any other in the world.”*



January 28, 2013

Kasich’s Swiss trip packed with Ohio pitches

By Joe Vardon

DAVOS, Switzerland — Colorado’s Democratic governor said he approached the chief executive of a fertilizer company here last week, and one of the first people mentioned in their conversation was Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

“This executive said, ‘Yeah, Gov. Kasich was all over me about Ohio, about coming to Ohio,’ ” John Hickenlooper said on Saturday, the final day of the World Economic Forum, an annual summit for global political and business leaders in a small ski community in the Swiss Alps.

“Of course, I was trying to do the same thing, get (the chemical-company executive) to look at Colorado,” Hickenlooper said. “From everything I’ve heard, Gov. Kasich represented Ohio exceedingly well. He seemed to be everywhere — that makes it harder on the rest of us.”

The Republican Kasich’s first trip abroad as governor was nothing if not active. Kasich and two senior staff members flew to Switzerland for the forum — famous for lavish parties, A-list entertainers and some of the biggest names in business and politics — determined to meet with as many chief executives as they could to sell them on Ohio.

In four days here, Kasich spoke with Coca-Cola CEO Muhtar Kent and Cisco chief John Chambers, plus executives of Dow Chemical, ThyssenKrupp and Mitsubishi Chemical. He sat down with Google Vice President Sebastian Thrun and ArcelorMittal’s Lakshmi Mittal.

There were other meetings with top executives — more than 20 in all. He had meetings with energy companies and aerospace companies, and companies in other sectors considering projects in Ohio that Kasich and his aides declined to identify because they are pending.

“This was well worth my while,” Kasich said. “I didn’t want to come to something just to rub elbows with people; I’m not interested in that. What we found was this was very targeted — a lot of different people from lots of different companies from lots of different countries all in one place, and all you’ve got to do is walk across the street to see them.

“I think what’s going to come out of this is a number of delegations from different companies are going to come into Ohio.”

Article continued here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/01/28/kasichs-swiss-trip-packed-with-ohio-pitches.html>

###