

Kasich Touts Plans at Chamber Awards Ceremony



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Gov. John Kasich touted his policies Thursday as a way to bring the state to the forefront in education, business attraction and health care during the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber's annual awards luncheon in Boardman.

Kasich touted the controversial JobsOhio non-profit he created, as well as 7,101 new jobs in northeast Ohio, responsible oil and gas drilling, and tax and education reforms that he said he believes would help the state to run more effectively and efficiently.

"We are up well over 100,000 jobs, our credit is stable, our budget is balanced, and we have \$2 billion of surplus in the state of Ohio," Kasich said.

He said he believes the \$3 billion that would be generated by proposed bonds taken out on the Ohio Turnpike will allow for that money to be spent on infrastructure projects in the northern half of the state.

Kasich was the keynote speaker at event at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman. Kasich announced his appointment of Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber President Tom Humphries to the Ohio Board of Regents at the event.

Awards were given to Covelli Enterprises owner Sam Covelli, Specialty Fab, Inc. owner David Hughes and Youngstown Mayor Charles Sammarone.

Kasich said he's not overly concerned with his critics.

"What I ask groups to do is, if you don't like the specifics of what I'm proposing, that's okay," Kasich said. "But come with something else because the status quo is not acceptable."

Kasich also talked about the burgeoning oil and gas industry in an exclusive interview with reporter Gerry Ricciutti. Kasich said in the wake of federal charges against Youngstown oil and gas business owner Ben Lupo for illegally dumping chemically-laced oilfield waste in the Mahoning River watershed, Ohio needs to send a message to the industry they can't ruin the environment.

"It will mean that you will hand those who are extremists, you will give them the grounds on which to try to shut down fracking, which would shut down a lot of potential growth in this part of the state," Kasich said.

Kasich also said critics have used scare tactics in opposing his plans to increase severance taxes on drilling companies.

“Right now, Texas doesn’t have an income tax and Oklahoma’s lowering their income tax rates, and guess what their severance tax is? Sky high,” Kasich said. “They pass their costs onto us in Ohio.”

With an eye on next year’s gubernatorial election, Kasich said his goal is to keep positive momentum on his side.

“We are starting to win,” he said. “I want us to climb to the very top.”

<http://www.wkbn.com/content/news/local/story/Kasich-Touts-Plans-at-Chamber-Awards-Ceremony/pkn83gRdTEWvRQC3CRhtTg.csp>

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