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OUR VIEW: Kasich makes strong case in Lorain County on reinventing Ohio

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Gov. John Kasich's visit to Lorain County last week met with mixed reaction.

The governor spoke with a group of local public officials and business leaders at Kalt Manufacturing in North Ridgeville.

Kalt is one of Ohio's success stories. It is undergoing a \$3.3 million expansion. Established in 1967, the firm is a precision machining facility where parts are made for wind turbines and fuel cells.

Kasich said Ohio needed the type of good jobs created by a Kalt and other manufacturers. He also said that in the past 10 years, Ohio had lost more jobs than every state but Michigan and California. Ohio also lagged in population growth compared to other states, resulting in two fewer Ohio congressional seats in the 2012 election.

The governor also made a strong case that his policies are helping to stem the flight of businesses, jobs and people from the Buckeye State. He cited the examples of American Greetings, Diebold, Bob Evans restaurants' headquarters and Goodyear.

Kasich warned that unless Ohio can continue to curtail government spending and ease the tax burdens on businesses, job creation and tax revenue from those jobs would be diminished.

But of most concern to some in Kasich's North Ridgeville audience was the governor's plans for eliminating the \$8 billion state budget deficit he inherited. Kasich's cost-cutting measures include reducing funding to local governments, selling and privatizing prisons and other state assets, and scaling back the influence and power that public employee unions hold over state and local government spending.

An exchange between Kasich and John Hunter, a retired union official and Sheffield Village's Democratic mayor, was particularly enlightening. Hunter criticized the governor for what Hunter saw as making budget cuts on the backs of Ohio's working men and women, especially public employees. Kasich countered that Ohio is losing jobs to less-unionized states such as Texas, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida.

Kasich didn't shirk any questions. His staff made notes on issues Kasich said he would look into.

Kasich is doing exactly what he needs to do in order to make Ohio a model for the nation of a hard-working industrial state reinventing itself to compete for good jobs in a global economy.

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