

wnewsj.com

Wilmington News Journal publishes daily Tuesday through Saturday.

OUR VIEW: State supports job-creation efforts

10/11/2011 11:55:00 AM

<http://www.wnewsj.com/main.asp?SectionID=42&SubSectionID=201&ArticleID=193433>

In recent years, jobs have been lost to other states because Ohio did not provide the level of incentives other states were willing to commit to gain those jobs. Businesses looking to grow or increase their competitive advantage frequently look to the public sector for incentives to assist in their company goals.

Gov. John Kasich deserves credit for committing the level of public funding needed to attract and retain Ohio jobs. More than \$240 million in grants, loans and tax breaks have been provided Ohio companies in order to keep them and their jobs in the state, The Associated Press reported.

For example, in March the state offered American Greetings \$93.5 million to keep it from moving out of state. Instead of moving to Chicago, the company relocated less than 15 miles from Brooklyn to Westlake near Cleveland. Bob Evans Restaurants received incentives worth \$17.4 million to move its headquarters from Columbus to the suburb of New Albany only 18 miles away. The company could have moved 150 jobs to Texas, where it already owns property. Instead, it will add 360 jobs and remain in Ohio, where the founder started making sausage some 70 years ago. Diebold Corp in Canton received a \$56 million package to keep its 1,900 workers in the Akron-Canton area. The company, which makes ATMs, had been considering a move to North Carolina or Virginia. Kasich administration officials say they are talking to more companies that are threatening to leave Ohio.

On occasion, the poaching of jobs favors Ohio. In September, an \$8 million package of incentives attracted Omnicare Inc. from northern Kentucky to downtown Cincinnati. The company brought 500 jobs with them.

The Kasich administration has also supported job-creation efforts in Clinton County. The Joint Use Maintenance and Paint hangar, an expansion project of Airborne Maintenance and Engineering Services, has received a substantial package of incentives from the state. Ohio is providing approximately \$14 million in bonds, loans and grants toward the estimated \$15 million total cost of the project. That project is anticipated to add 260 jobs to a local economy that is crying out for new jobs.

We thank Gov. Kasich for his support of the JUMP hangar project and hope that the community can count on state support for additional job-creation efforts in the near future. The governor deserves high marks for his administration's efforts to attract and retain companies and jobs. If Ohio is not willing to make those efforts, another state will.

###