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Captain of industry and governor of state salute city's 'good feel'

By Judie Perkowski

A visit from Ohio Gov. John R. Kasich to a production plant in Cambridge Friday afternoon resulted from the company's decision to add 150 new jobs to the facility in the past six months, averting what could have been disastrous for employees and the local economy.

Quanex Building Products had planned to close both its Kentucky and Cambridge plants and build a new facility in Indiana. After Quanex company officials visited the area and met with local officials and legislators, the company abandoned its original plan and transferred the Kentucky operation to Cambridge.

George Wilson, Quanex Insulating Glass Systems general manager in Cambridge, welcomed Kasich, David Petratis, CEO of Quanex Building Products and Cambridge Mayor Tom Orr.

"Quanex's decision to transfer its Kentucky operation to Cambridge was not just a financial consideration. We are in an amazing place. It's our logistics, it's our access to educational facilities -- like Zane State's training center -- and it's our people. And, it's how we at Quanex can better serve our customers," said Wilson.

Kasich personally congratulated Quanex employees when he spoke to the group and reiterated his goal of "job for Ohioans."

"This is fantastic! Congratulations to all the people at Quanex. Job growth propels the economy," said Kasich. "We have visionaries, people who understand business, who worked hard to bring this to fruition. We Ohioans have it all ... from small businesses and manufacturing to agriculture and agribusiness, in addition to great education and training centers. Cambridge is a great town ... it's growing and prospering, but still maintains that 'good feel.'"

"Two years ago Ohio was 48th in the country for annual job growth, today we are fourth in the country and first in the Midwest for job growth. I am thrilled. But, we still have a long way to go, we cannot relax, we need to work even harder, be more creative and train more people for good-paying jobs."

"We feel extremely honored that Gov. Kasich visited Cambridge to help us celebrate Quanex's growth in Ohio and our continued dedication to the community," said Petratis. "Together, we are building strength through innovation, continuous improvement and above all, integrity. Manufacturing is critical, it is at the core of prosperity."

"Quanex's decision to make Cambridge its flagship operation was the result of a lot of hard work by a lot of people," said Norm Blanchard, executive director of the Community Improvement Corp. in Cambridge. "The CIC was instrumental in bringing elected officials and government agencies together. We combined all of our assets to ensure growth in Cambridge instead of another state."

Quanex IG Systems facility moved to Cambridge in 1994. Global facilities are located in North America, United Kingdom and Western Europe.

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