

Remarks by Lt. Governor Becky Skillman
ProLiance event at Crane
11.17.2006

It is always a pleasure to come down to Crane, and I am especially pleased to be joined by so many distinguished members of the defense industry and business and community leaders from across the state and even beyond our borders. I want to extend a special thank you to ProLiance Energy for sponsoring today's events. I appreciate your leadership, and look forward to many other trips like this one in the future.

CRANE'S IMPACT

I think of Crane as Indiana's \$1.3 million treasure. That is, after all, what it contributes to Indiana's economy on a daily basis. Crane is one of our best resources, and we—in fact, I personally, have fought to keep it here. I will tell you that I have a personal interest in seeing Crane thrive as well as a state economic interest. I served in the Indiana Senate for 12 years, representing 5 counties that are touched by Crane. Many of the 5,000 workers that make Crane hum reside in my former district.

Crane has an enormous impact on the southwest part of the state, and in the state in general. It provides 37% of all the wages in its host count. Many of the small cities and towns surrounding the base are very dependent on its continued presence in their communities, and we are doing our best in state government to see that happens.

One of my proudest accomplishments since assuming office as Lt. Governor was the successful fight to save Crane during the 2005 BRAC announcements. It was a team effort to say the least, and we know that with a base like Crane and all the tremendous resources that are here, we need to do more than just keep it alive, we need to make it thrive and grow.

There has always been a great deal of statewide support for Crane, not just when BRAC is part of the picture. Indiana has come to value Crane as highly as one of our great research institutions because of the services it provides in terms of transferring technology and assisting our state's Homeland Security efforts.

We had a unanimous resolution pass the General Assembly in support of the Crane base, honoring it for its critical role in our national defense and our state economy. The Assembly also passed the Military Base Protection Act in its last legislative session. The legislation protects Crane from encroachment and gives priority permit status for Crane at the Department of Environmental Management. It also places restrictions on local government officials in the area to further protect Crane's integrity.

WEST GATE

This has been a red-letter year for Crane and this region of Indiana. More than 70 Fortune 500 level tech companies call Crane home, and this year, with the addition of the West Gate Tech Park, these companies and others like them have a platform to grow their businesses locally. I was here in May to help open the tech park, and we already have

prestigious research universities like Rose Hulman and Purdue joining our first tenant, EG and G, a subsidiary company of the \$2 billion URS corporation.

The West Gate is on the cutting-edge of technological development, and it offers fantastic amenities and resources for optimal growth of the companies that locate here. Infrastructure, broadband, human capital – Crane has everything a growing company needs to win.

A military base provides something extra for a tech park. There is a stability and draw there that other tech parks don't enjoy. When you have a tech park surrounded by a military base and add superior accessibility to that mix, you have a recipe for success and longevity. Infrastructure – roads, highways, bridges and more – are another critical element that makes business thrive here.

We've taken bold action to modernize Indiana's highway system to help bolster economic development. Thanks to a little forward thinking and innovation, our plans to renovate, resurface, and rebuild our roads are fast becoming reality. We now have a fully-funded, 10-year plan to build new highways and repair old ones. We are giving local units of government unprecedented amounts of discretionary dollars to spend on local road and bridges, and we are doing it without raising taxes.

We've done a lot in Indiana to improve our highway system, and I'm proud to say that our plans for the I-69 extension will take that highway within a mile of the West Gate Tech Park – that's potentially a toll-free, high-speed interstate right at your back door.

We recently announced our plans for the Indiana Commerce Connector as well. This new highway would act as an outer loop, connecting six interstates and major economic hubs in five counties surrounding Indianapolis. The future just keeps getting brighter for Indiana companies.

ENERGY

With a modernized highway system, Indiana is becoming even more competitive. We are quickly taking the lead on transportation and economic improvements, and we are also becoming a national leader on energy issues.

We want to make energy an economic driver, not an economic drain. The best way to do that is to invest in renewable fuels that can be produced here in Indiana – Hoosier Homegrown Energy. The fuel that will power Indiana's economic engine is yellow and green and growing all around us. Corn and soybeans—ethanol and biodiesel—have already proven to be big industrial draws.

With 13 new ethanol production facilities under construction and 3 new biodiesel plants, our farmers and our manufacturers are looking at tremendous growth. Not only will our energy initiatives eliminate the need to buy energy from other states, we will keep capital here and create thousands of new jobs. We're pursuing energy independence,

modernizing our infrastructure and building the future. We want you to be a part of that. We want you to be a part of the rejuvenation we are experiencing in Indiana.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

That rejuvenation has been due in no small part to the innovative approach we are taking in government. It's really quite simple. We are operating state government within its limits – and more efficiently within its limits – and partnering with the private sector to secure incredible benefits for the citizens and businesses in our state. Sound policy only goes so far. It doesn't take long to reach the limits of state government's ability to foster growth. Eventually, we need the private sector to take a leadership role and become a partner with us in our efforts to expand the opportunities available to Hoosiers.

We took that approach here at Crane as well. The development of Crane has been a public private partnership from the start with unprecedented cooperative work from county commissioners, redevelopment commissions, economic development professionals, mayors and others in Daviess, Greene and Martin counties. This kind of work requires a huge collaborative effort. State government's role has been one of facilitation. It's our job to create a business-friendly environment, and we are constantly working on new ways to achieve that.

One important way we are working to partner with you is through our state Office of Energy and Defense Development. We want to help position companies like yours to maximize development and take advantage of the resources the state has to offer. The defense industry is important to us. If you haven't already met Jason Lovell, he is one of our go-to guys in Defense Development. A big part of his job is to provide direct assistance to companies interested in defense contracts, to answer your questions and help you find new opportunities right here in Indiana. I encourage you to talk to him, to bother him as much as you want. He loves it.

We're working to help diversify Crane as well. We are always watching for new opportunities, new business and new ideas. Crane is a busy, thriving hub of commerce and military activity, and we want to keep it that way. The potential for growth here is enormous, and we want to see as many companies as possible benefit from the opportunities that are available here.

STATEWIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I mentioned to you that our focus in state government has been to create a business-friendly environment. Every agency, every department here in Indiana is focused on efficiency and the best possible future for our state. That has meant far more than just a focus on the infrastructure. Infrastructure is a critical element, but we are looking for full economic engagement and a vibrant economy in every sector.

When the Governor and I assumed office in January 2005, one of the first things we did was to dissolve the inefficient Department of Commerce and replace it with the public-private partnership of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Using the

principles of the business world, we have been able to achieve remarkable results in a short period of time.

In 2005 we closed a total of 142 competitive projects, bringing 15,407 new jobs, and millions of dollars of investment to our state economy. Already in 2006, we have blown those numbers away. We've closed over 150 competitive projects – where Indiana was competing directly with other states – and those projects total nearly \$4 billion dollars. When Indiana goes head-to-head with other states, we are winning 90% of the time. That's phenomenal. That's the new business-friendly face of the Hoosier state.

I also have to mention the other positive economic factors at play in Indiana. For the first time in a decade, Indiana has an honestly balanced budget, and a newly improved credit rating by Moody's Investment Service – where our rating went from negative to stable in one year! The markets are recognizing our efforts to reduce spending, repay our debts and increase investment. I hope you will recognize that, too.

One of the ways we are working to keep Indiana moving forward and continue this upward trend of development is through workforce development. Through the state Office of Community and Rural Affairs, which I oversee, we have made funding available for communities - like those surrounding Crane - to pursue workforce development.

We have many programs throughout state government that are focused on building the pool of qualified workers. OCRA's program is just one example. Through OCRA, rural communities can receive up to \$150,000 to support rural and community level entrepreneurial projects or to tackle community-specific workforce training and educational needs.

CONCLUSION

We are committed to capitalizing on Indiana's assets. That's why you are here, after all. There is room for you at Crane, room for you to expand and do business. During your visit today, you have probably already seen an incredible display of the wonderful opportunities available to you here.

I am proud of the progress Indiana has made in the past year and a half in building those opportunities. I hope you can tell that I am immensely proud of the tremendous asset we have in Crane and how much I believe in its potential to power the economy.

I want to thank the men and women who work here at Crane for their ongoing contributions to Indiana and to our nation's defense. I hope in the future that you will share my sense of pride and ownership in Crane. Take a good look around you. There is a great deal to gain.

Thank you.