

Japan-Midwest U.S. Association Conference  
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery  
Sept. 14, 2015

Chairman Mogi, Honorary Chairman Dobi, fellow governors...

Thank you for your hospitality in welcoming us today to this storied conference. In the course of nearly 50 years, this gathering stands as an annual reminder of the strength of the bond joining the U.S. Midwest and the nation of Japan. As friends, we regularly travel across oceans and continents to listen, learn and grow from one another. But on days like today, those distances feel like little more than geography, with timeless values of integrity, hard work, tradition and family linking the Midwest and Japan in a very special bond – a “kizuna.”

In 2013, when it was time for our Indiana team to select the location for our first international jobs mission as governor, the choice was clear. We traveled to Japan, and only Japan, meeting with business and community leaders in Tokyo, Nagoya and Tochigi Prefecture, our sister state. And while traveling across your nation, I discovered that the true strength of our relationship is rooted in something far deeper than passing ideas or trends. Indiana and Japan’s relationship finds its strength...as a friendship.

Nearly 30 years ago, one of my predecessors as governor of Indiana visited a Subaru supplier in Gunma Prefecture and planted a small black pine, its state tree, in Ota City. When we visited in 2013, the tree towered above us, standing tall and strong with dedication to daily watering. I was proud to plant a tulip poplar, Indiana’s state tree, next to that black pine. As the roots deepen and leaves blossom, so too does our relationship.

Another friend of Indiana’s, a Toyota and Subaru supplier, periodically sponsors trips to Japan for teachers in Mooresville, Indiana, where the company operates a manufacturing facility. Education is a gateway to cultural understanding, a passion that my wife – a former teacher – and the company’s chief executive officer both share.

As friends, Indiana and Japan have shared the joys and struggles of growing our businesses and economies together. For instance, it was my pleasure to meet Mr. Akio Toyoda, president and chief executive officer of Toyota Motor Group, on my last visit to Japan.

Growth has been strong for Toyota in Indiana since 1996, when the company picked the Hoosier State for what was just the second wholly-owned Toyota plant in North America.

Following our meeting, Toyota announced last summer that it’s boosting Highlander production in Princeton, Indiana. Today Hoosier-built Highlanders are traveling on roads across North America, as well as in Australia, New Zealand and Eastern Europe.

Toyota said that to run that increased production, they’d need to hire 300 more Hoosiers. But really, we know it’s more than that. Toyota’s growth in Indiana creates expansion and job growth for suppliers across our region, signifying the growth of Indiana manufacturing and the further development of our bond with Japan.

And look at Subaru. The auto company only has two assembly plants. One is located at Subaru headquarters in Ota City, where we met friends new and old in 2013. The other location is in Lafayette, Indiana, where the company that year announced big growth plans.

In Indiana, we're thankful to count Japan as our largest Asian trading partner. Japanese companies operate a staggering 250 business facilities throughout Indiana. With the 52,000 Hoosiers employed at Japanese companies across Indiana, our state is proud to stand as your largest workforce in the Midwest region!

For helping Indiana reach this milestone, thank you from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of the 6.5 million Hoosiers who call Indiana home.

Thank you to everyone at Honda, Subaru, and Toyota. Indiana is proud to stand as the only U.S. state that is home to three Japanese auto OEMs. I'm eagerly anticipating our meetings with the teams at Honda, Subaru and Toyota throughout our week here in Japan.

Over the past 10 years, we've witnessed the tremendous growth of Honda's operations in Indiana. The company established its Greensburg operations in 2006, and now provides more than 2,000 jobs to hardworking Hoosiers. Just this spring, Honda celebrated its 1 millionth car built at its Indiana plant. For that dedication to Indiana and Hoosiers alike, we say thank you.

Thank you to The Aisin Group, based in Kariya City. You were one of the first Japanese investors in Indiana, and I look forward to meeting with your leaders on Thursday to celebrate your 50 years in business and your 10 growing companies across Indiana with over 2,900 employees.

And thank you to Fukai Manufacturing Company and to Toyotetsu. With your new joint venture and the 195 new Hoosier jobs you are creating in Jamestown, Indiana, you are the first company based in our sister state of Tochigi to pick Indiana.

In Indiana, our Hoosier economy is driving forward. And when I say driving forward, we're really stepping on the gas. Homegrown and global businesses alike are growing in research and development, aerospace, information technology, life sciences and medical and energy. Advanced manufacturing is becoming even more specialized, with growth across our state today in robotic technology, composites, semiconductors, manufacturing equipment and electronics components. Whether your business is experienced in these sectors or new to the game, Indiana's workforce is ready to help.

With the aid of Japanese companies, today more Hoosiers are employed than any time in our state's history. We reached this historic level of employment in Indiana in part because of your friendship, and in part because you've had confidence that Indiana is a state that works for your businesses.

And as friends, it breaks my heart to see the devastation raging floodwaters have dropped on the Tohoku and Kanto regions of Japan, a byproduct of rains from the typhoon. In Indiana we saw footage of homes swept away and residents working desperately to escape. More than 1.1 million people have been asked to evacuate and more than 480 people have been rescued, including 24 from Tochigi Prefecture. In the coming weeks and months, we're committed to this relationship and assisting with relief efforts, working together to help Japan recover even stronger.

It is perhaps more important now than ever before that the U.S. and Japan grow our economies as one. Trade means jobs, but it also means security, which is why I continue to call for the adoption of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. A strong economy is a stable economy, and a stable economy helps shine a beacon of hope in the stormy waters of the world today.

We've seen progress made in Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, and after years of talks and Ministerial

meetings this summer in Hawaii, it appears we may be soon reaching the finish line. While some issues remain, it's crucial that the United States, Japan and 10 other Pacific Rim nations continue to work together with resolve, building consensus around trade designed for our 21st Century economy. American and Japanese products deserve to stand on a level playing field when competing against products coming from points around the globe. The Trans-Pacific Partnership will stand as a uniting force for shared growth and equal opportunity, linking a dozen nations that together produce 40 percent of the world's gross domestic product. For the future of our Japanese and American economies, it's imperative that an agreement is reached soon.

Deeply humbled, today we say *domo arigato* to our friends in Japan. Thank you for your investments, your confidence and your friendship. Traveling with a delegation of nearly 40 Hoosiers, Indiana remains committed to helping Japanese companies grow, plan and achieve. Please let *any* of us know how we can help you reach and surpass your goals. As a state that works, we're here to help.

Together we've built a relationship based on shared values and respect. We work hard, but we also celebrate our friendship and our success together. With commitment today and into tomorrow, I see a strong future among Indiana and Japan, nurturing generations of shared promise and opportunity.

Thank you.