



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

LT. GOVERNOR KIM GUADAGNO
Secretary of State

Dear Friends:


From the outset, our Administration has worked to provide our business community and job creators with the policies and the customer-driven approach they require to invest and grow across New Jersey. What has followed is a record of considerable success that has witnessed a private sector employment increase of more than 125,000 jobs since February 2010 and provided the momentum necessary for further progress in the years ahead.

At the center of this strategy remains an emphasis on creating a business-friendly environment to enhance the state's competitive advantages. Specifically, more than \$2.2 billion in comprehensive, pro-growth tax relief has been provided as an incentive to encourage businesses to remain, expand and relocate in New Jersey since 2010. In addition, the bipartisan Red Tape Review Commission continues to be a national model in implementing sensible, pro-growth regulatory reform and principles across the statewide rulemaking and permitting process to provide the predictability and consistency businesses not only expect but deserve.

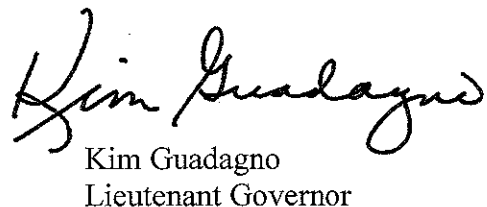
This same approach extends to the ongoing work of the New Jersey Partnership for Action and its components – Choose New Jersey, the Economic Development Authority, the Business Action Center and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. Over the past several months, the Partnership has welcomed progress, including the implementation of the “game-changing” enhancements to the state's financial incentive programs outlined in the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013. We have also seen the streamlined transition of top talent from our colleges and universities to high-paying jobs within New Jersey's leading 21st century innovation-driven industries. Additionally, our commitment to delivering critical and time-sensitive advocacy and business assistance in a matter of days, if not hours, remains a foremost priority.

The *New Jersey Economic Development Handbook* highlights the positive changes occurring across state government to make New Jersey an engine of opportunity, innovation and prosperity. We look forward to continuing to work with our diverse business community to make New Jersey an ideal location for job creation and investment for years to come.

Sincerely,



Chris Christie
Governor



Kim Guadagno
Lieutenant Governor