

Kasich in Twinsburg: Small businesses can benefit from workers' comp rate cut

By Emily Canning-Dean

Twinsburg — Ohio Gov. John Kasich chose a local automotive technology business April 28 as the backdrop for his proposal to cut the base rate of workers compensation by 4 percent.

The president of Mustang Dynamometer on Pinnacle Parkway said he is in full support of the cut, which will save Mustang about \$10,000 per year.

“This is fantastic ... It means more money that can be invested into the company,” said Dean Ganzhorn, president of Mustang Dynamometer.

Kasich announced to a crowd of about 200 his proposal for the rate reduction and touted other tenets of his jobs budget during his 45-minute long visit. He was to visit another business, Noshok, in Berea later today.

“Mustang Dynamometer is a company with interesting technology ... [it’s] a small business that will really benefit from this reduction,” Kasich said.

Mustang has been in Twinsburg since 1986 and manufactures automotive testing equipment such as chassis and engine dynamometers. The facility is 60,000 square feet and employs 60.

Bureau of Workers’ Compensation administrator Steve Buehrer, who accompanied Kasich, said the rate reduction — which still must be approved by the Board of Directors at the BWC — is possible because the bureau has been receiving a good return on investments, and because the number of claims submitted to the bureau has decreased in the last few years.

Buehrer added that he submitted Kasich’s proposal to the board April 28, the same day Kasich announced the proposal in Twinsburg.

If the board of directors approve the proposal, the lower base rate would take affect July 1.

Several officials present applauded Kasich’s proposal.

“We now have a governor who understands that it is business that grows jobs,” said State Rep. Lynn Slaby.

“I don’t think people who don’t own a business realize what employers pay for workers’ comp,” said Doug Johnson, executive director of the Twinsburg Chamber of Commerce. “This will be a benefit to many of our small businesses.”

“I think the governor gave a very positive message,” said Twinsburg Council President Gary Sorace. “I don’t envy his position. But this proposal is great news for small businesses.”

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