



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Greetings:

As Governor of Texas, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone attending the Deep East Texas Contracting Opportunities Conference 2010.

Despite the effects of the national economic downturn, Texas continues to boast the strongest economy in the nation. Just take a look at the facts: Texas has been the nation's top exporter for eight years running, boasts an unemployment rate significantly below the national average, and is home to more Fortune 500 and Fortune 1000 companies than any other state.

Businesses and entrepreneurs from all over the nation are drawn to Texas by our low taxes, our reasonable regulatory structure and a business-friendly climate that rewards innovation and investment. These are advantages from which all areas of our state can benefit — from our metropolitan centers to small towns and rural areas.

Private businesses, government and local economic development organizations all have a hand in creating and maintaining economic viability in Texas. Much of Texas' growth and prosperity is due to the efforts of people like you. I am proud of all the hard work being done by our economic development professionals and small business owners.

First Lady Anita Perry joins me in wishing you all an enjoyable and informative conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Rick Perry
Governor