

05.02.07 - Devens Development

Governor Deval L. Patrick
Devens Development
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As Delivered

I was just saying to Jim, it's fun to be engaged in a project like this together with an old and dear friend. Jim, thank you for the warm welcome and for reading the introduction exactly as we wrote it for you.

We came to office with a vision of a more vibrant, more inclusive Massachusetts. A Massachusetts that is making the most of her considerable potential, and creating opportunities as broad, uplifting, and exciting for others as this Commonwealth made for me more than 30 years ago. We know that bringing that vision to life begins with economic growth, and that without robust, sustainable job creation, nothing else we hope to accomplish will be within our reach. We also know that businesses, not governments, create jobs. But government's role, it seems to me, is to create the conditions to encourage job growth. And so the willingness of government to come together with private interests, most importantly this company, and make the kinds of infrastructure investments and tax credits that make this project possible is exactly the type of public-private partnership that we want to be about. So today's groundbreaking is a perfect illustration of how we make economic growth work in Massachusetts. This cutting-edge facility represents \$750 million dollars and 350 new jobs for our Commonwealth, and will be at the forefront of a rapidly expanding industry sector. Their growth is spurred by the strengths we offer in our high concentration of brainpower and venture capital, and our tradition of innovation, that goes back now many centuries. Along with this investment, I am proud to welcome a company whose mission is to extend and enhance human life. The first medicine to be produced in this facility will help treat rheumatoid arthritis, if I understand it correctly. Other potential products include treatments for certain forms of cancer and solid organ transplant rejection. We have brought jobs and growth, and opened up the doorways to healing for millions of people around the world, and that's very good news.

That ability to serve both our economic interests and address broader human needs is a big part of why the life sciences are central to our own economic vision for the Commonwealth. In the coming week, 20,000 life science and biotech industry leaders from over the world will be coming here to Boston. This development will help us send a clear signal about the unique opportunities for growth in Massachusetts, and our willingness to put in the work, and the time, and the effort, and the imagination to bring those kinds of jobs to these shores, to Devens and elsewhere across the Commonwealth.

Next week, Massachusetts will be at the forefront of the attention of the life sciences industry across the globe, and we intend to make the most of it. Representatives for industry, academia, government and research facilities will see a state that is poised to build upon existing strengths; a state committed to solidifying its place as a world leader in life sciences. I've repeatedly said that Massachusetts cannot fuel her future on the fumes of the past. We must take our considerable potential and build on that, to take new ideas, and new people, and new investment and blend them with the traditions of innovation, the considerable brainpower here, to advance us all. That's what today symbolizes for me, indeed for all of us, and our welcome is warm. We look forward to working closely with you.

Thank you very much.