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Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Visits Tropical Cheese to Highlight Governor's Budget

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Perth Amboy-Based Ethnic Food Company Symbolizes American Dream

Trenton, NJ – Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today visited Perth Amboy-based Tropical Cheese to stress the importance of passing Governor Christie's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget and continue the New Jersey Comeback.

The visit is part of an ongoing effort to foster a productive dialogue with the state's job creators. It also builds on momentum from last year's statewide "100 Business Initiative" to advance the state's economic development strategy.

"Meeting face-to-face and eye-to-eye with successful companies like Tropical Cheese is invaluable," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "Learning about their unique story and their concerns is essential to developing an effective economic policy."

During her visit, the Lt. Governor reiterated the Christie Administration's commitment to seeing Tropical Cheese's success emulated statewide.

"Our proposed 10 percent income tax cut and full restoration of the Earned Income Tax Credit are the latest chapters in a much larger story," added the Lt. Governor. "This includes \$2.35 billion in Fiscal Year 2012 tax cuts to incentivize business attraction and retention, implementing a fairer and more competitive tax code, and creating new programs like GrowNJ to increase capital investment and job creation."

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During the Christie Administration's first two years, New Jersey added about 60,000 new private sector jobs and attracted scores of companies. In fact, 2011 was the best private sector job growth year in New Jersey since 2000, according to Rutgers University economist Joseph Seneca.

Founded in 1981, Tropical Cheese began as the dream of Rafael Mendez, who started as a milk deliveryman and realized the American Dream through hard work and determination. After settling in Perth Amboy in the 1970s, he started a milk delivery route servicing the Hispanic community – the foundation of Tropical Cheese.

Today, Tropical Cheese is one of the leading producers and distributors of Latino targeted dairy products from New England to Florida. The company is currently planning on expanding west, with the goal to become the nation's leading manufacturer and distributor of quality Latin American refrigerated foods and dairy products.

In 2008 the company won "Best of Class" in the Wisconsin Cheese Makers World Cheese contest and placed first in Latin American Cheese at the World Dairy Expo in 2009.

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