

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Whitman Helps Celebrate Kullman Industries; New Corporate Offices and Expansion Emphasize Boom

Governor Christie Whitman visited a local diner today, but it wasn't to eat this time. She joined Kullman Industries, which is the nation's oldest provider of roadside diners, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in celebration of the opening of its new corporate offices and expanded plant facilities in Lebanon - and its decision to remain in the Garden State.

The consolidation of Kullman Industries in Lebanon will keep 200 jobs in New Jersey and create the opportunity for more jobs as the company expands.

"Our well-educated workforce, business assistance programs, cultural activities and superb business location, make New Jersey the perfect place for growing businesses," said Gov. Whitman. "More and more companies, like Kullman Industries, are recognizing just that - and choosing to locate or expand their operations in New Jersey."

"What's happening here is happening all around the state. During July and August alone, we added nearly 10,000 more jobs to New Jersey's economy -- bringing the total number of jobs added since January of 1994 to more than 360,000," added Gov. Whitman.

Kullman Industries received more than \$9 million in financial assistance from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA), including \$6.8 million in low-interest bonds and \$2.4 million in tax-exempt bonds.

As a result, Kullman Industries was able to add another 20,000 square feet to its facilities, buy additional production equipment and provide for the creation of additional jobs. Kullman Industries consolidated its operations in Lebanon by moving its corporate offices from Woodbridge.

The Governor cited Kullman Industries as an example of the EDA's success and how the state is making it easier for companies, like Kullman Industries, to redevelop properties for new purposes as well as encourage growth where it makes the most sense.

Founded in 1927, Kullman Industries was originally called Kullman Dining Car Company. Kullman Industries also now uses its expertise in the design, manufacture and construction of multi-module steel structures (through an accelerated construction process) for commercial, industrial and governmental use. Accelerated construction is a method that reduces the project schedule by 50 percent.

Kullman Industries decision to remain in New Jersey is a reflection of the state's pro-active efforts to showcase New Jersey's advantages according to the Governor. In a recently released 1998 Business Relocation Report, 116 companies committed to relocating all or part of their businesses to New Jersey. This figure represents the highest annual number reported since the state first published the study in 1984, an increase of 10 percent over 1997.

