

WAPAKONETA DAILY NEWS

Friday, June 14, 2013

www.wapakdailynews.com

Ag, energy, small business top Mandel plan for Ohio

By **WILLIAM LANEY**
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As Ohio's state investor,
state Treasurer Josh Man-

del discussed his plans for
making Ohio a stronger
manufacturing state and a
place where manufacturer
job creation flourishes

with Honda of America
Manufacturing employees
at the Anna plant.

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"I really believe the future of Ohio's economy in large part depends on four main areas — agriculture, energy, small business and manufacturing," Mandel said prior to a visit Wednesday to the Anna plant. "If we can create a better environment in Ohio for farm jobs, energy jobs, small business jobs and manufacturing jobs then we will not only be stronger state competing against Indiana, Michigan but against any state as well as India and China."

With the global economy shrinking, more Ohio companies are producing goods for the world but they also are competing against businesses around the globe.

"It is imperative for us as policy makers at the Statehouse to create a better regulatory environment and a better tax environment for manufacturing job creation," Mandel said as he was visiting the plant as it prepares to



Photo provided

State Treasurer Josh Mandel visited the Honda of America Mfg. Anna Engine plant Wednesday to tell them his plans for economic growth in Ohio.

manufacture a new powertrain system for a new Acura model which will be manufactured in Ohio.

As treasurer, he wants to ensure the manufacturing of these components is smooth and that there are no surprises at the state government level making it "free of unnecessary bureaucracy and paperwork."

He also talked to workers about revamping Ohio's tax code and making the tax code simpler for manufacturer.

"While we are fortunate to have a growing operation at the Honda plant in Anna, we must also ask the question on how we can create a better environment for small businesses up and down Interstate 75 which are going to be supporting manufacturing at the Anna plant," Mandel said. "I have a vision of the I-75 corridor helping to lead an economic comeback for the state of Ohio."

The I-75 corridor has long supported automo-

tive manufacturing and Mandel foresees the region being a strong supplier for the natural gas and crude oil development in eastern Ohio.

He also touched on affordable energy and affordable production of energy as a boom for the state.

"I am strong supporter for drilling for oil and gas in Ohio and the United States because I think it is a win-win-win," Mandel said. "It should bring down energy prices for families and manufacturing companies, it will create a better environment for job creation and it will keep our country safe and secure — the more we are producing energy here and in America then the less we have to depend on energy from radical Islamic countries in the Middle East."