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Governor Talks Business, Border Violence

Perry Touts Texas Economy, Security Needs

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SAN ANTONIO -- Other than Americans in Mexico, like the alleged killing of jet skier David Hartley on Falcon Lake, and those involved in the drug trade killed by rivals on the U.S. side, Gov. Rick Perry admits not a single innocent life has been lost because of cartel violence in Texas.

"I hope we don't have one," said Perry, who said, however, that it is only a matter of time.

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Yet up to now, Texas cities up and down the Rio Grande report low crime rates, especially murders, remain low, comparatively safer than Houston, Dallas or San Antonio.

"I say we're pretty lucky is what I say," Perry said.

Still he said the threat from the cartel violence ravaging Mexico is real, not just campaign rhetoric.

"It's OK for 28,000 Mexicans to be killed and we're supposed to sit over here and say, 'Well, it hasn't spilled over on us yet,'" Perry said.

However, many who live on the Texas border call that the campaign issue "border security hysteria" that is hurting their economies. Also many border intelligence experts said they doubt the cartel operatives will risk falling under the rule of law in the U.S. unlike systems that are often corrupted in Mexico.

Still Perry reinforced his earlier calls for a stronger federal government presence to back up state efforts, including \$230 million in taxpayer funds for border security.

Texas Economy

Earlier while speaking at the Competiveness Summit in San Antonio, Perry said it was no surprise research show Texas beat out the battered California economy.

It was conducted by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a nonprofit free market research institute based in Austin.

The study showed California had lost 112,000 jobs while Texas gained 126,000 jobs last year.

Perry said the state's tax and regulatory policies are business-friendly, plus tort reform is protection from frivolous lawsuits.

He said that is why companies like Caterpillar, Toyota and Medtronic are now in Texas.

"If they thought for a moment that they were going to move here and find the personal injury owners running amok and suing them every time they turned around, they would not have chosen to come to the state of Texas," Perry said.

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