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Snyder, Bolger Takes Notes From Daniels

Could Michigan learn a thing or two from neighboring Indiana? Gov. Rick SNYDER and House Speaker Jase BOLGER (R-Marshall) certainly seem to feel Michigan can at least learn from Indiana Gov. Mitch DANIELS.

Snyder and Bolger made appearances on The Frank BECKMANN Show on WJR this morning and chatted about Daniels, who was the featured speaker at a Mackinac Center dinner Monday evening (See "Daniels: MI Will Be Rising Fast," 11/14/11).

Snyder told Beckmann he visited Daniels in the summer of 2009 to talk about best practices -- something that's common in the private sector.

"It's the right thing to do. If other people are doing best practices and have great innovative ideas, let's get them. That's part of the way you move from near the bottom to the top even faster," Snyder said.

One of the main things Snyder picked up on from Daniels in that visit was the idea of great customer service. The famous "Snyder for Michigan" RV was another offspring of that visit, Snyder said.

Bolger said he was "absolutely impressed" by Daniels.

Bolger also took Daniels' messages about governing

to heart, saying he agreed with the idea that you can't "grow the middle class by growing government."

"To make Michigan a better place to find a job we have to make Michigan a better place to provide a job," Bolger said.

Beckmann asked Snyder whether he wished Daniels would have run for president. Daniels was widely considered as a possible contender for the GOP presidential primary. He considered it, but ultimately decided not to run after discussing the idea with his family.

"He would have been a great candidate for president," Snyder said. "He would have been one of the top tier candidates if he was running today. At the same time, though, one of the reasons I respect him so much is he has some very strong values."

Daniels' decision to put his family first added to Snyder's respect for him, Snyder said.

Beckmann also asked Snyder whether the possibility of Indiana passing "right to work" legislation in the spring puts pressure on Michigan to do the same.

"Every state is different. I think we're following a good path here in terms of not having right to work on our agenda," Snyder said.