



February 2, 2010

The Honorable Ted Strickland
Governor – State of Ohio

The Honorable Bill Harris
President – Ohio Senate

The Honorable Armond Budish
Speaker – Ohio House of Representatives

Dear Governor Strickland, President Harris and Speaker Budish:

The L.E.A.D.er Coalition of 25 chambers of commerce in the greater Dayton region, representing over 11,000 businesses in the greater Dayton region, wish to convey our enthusiastic support for the renewal of the Ohio Third Frontier Program.

As the State of Ohio and the Dayton business community have faced unprecedented economic challenges, we are forced to embrace new and innovative strategies to retain and grow our local economy. One of the most successful economic strategies has been the implementation and execution of the Ohio Third Frontier Program. Since 2002, organizations in the greater Dayton region have received over \$123 million in Third Frontier Program investments. These investments have helped businesses create over 48,000 jobs statewide and encourage millions of dollars of private investment in the State of Ohio.

The Dayton region is in a time of transition, as we are transitioning from a traditional manufacturing economy to a community rich in information technology, defense and alternative energy. Through this transition, small businesses are proving to be the future of our local economy. The support that numerous small businesses have received through Third Frontier Program has been vital to their success. Additionally, Third Frontier investments have helped establish the Dayton region and the State of Ohio as a leader in fuel cell development and innovative energy solutions.

The L.E.A.D.er Coalition respectfully requests that the Third Frontier Program renewal be of paramount priority for the Ohio Legislature and that it be placed on the May 4, 2010 ballot.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Phillip L. Parker, CAE, CCE
Dayton Area Chamber



Clete Buddelmeyer
Beavercreek Chamber



Paul Newman
Fairborn Area Chamber



Sara Arseneau
Lebanon Area Chamber



Lisa Whitaker
Piqua Area Chamber



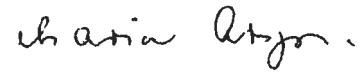
Anne Stremanos
Springboro Chamber



Matt Owen
Tipp City Chamber



Matt Appenzeller
Eaton-Preble County Chamber



Maria Ariga
Troy Area Chamber



Sharon Deschambeau
Darke County Chamber