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Contact: Julie Wagner Feasel, Vice President, Communications
614-228-4201



UNITING BUSINESS. IMPROVING OHIO.

P.O. BOX 15159
230 EAST TOWN STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-0159

614.228.4201 800.622.1893
614.228.6403 FAX

www.ohiochamber.com
occ@ohiochamber.com

OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESPONDS TO TAX CUT DELAY

It is no secret that Ohio is facing unprecedented economic times. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce understands the challenges this creates for every Ohio business, every level of government and every Ohioan.

Given these difficulties, the commitment made by Governor Strickland and our legislative leaders to maintain the tax reforms enacted in 2005 is commendable. We appreciate their recognition of the importance of these reforms for the long-term good of Ohio.

The Ohio Supreme Court's recent decision allowing a referendum on the state budget provisions that permit the Lottery Commission to operate Video Lottery Terminals at Ohio racetracks has made achieving a balanced state budget even more difficult. Although the governor's decision to balance the state budget by postponing the final personal income tax cut included in the 2005 tax reform package is disappointing, we believe this may be the least onerous option available at this point in time.

"It is important that the personal income tax cut be reinstated as soon as possible," said Andrew E. Doehrel, President and CEO. "Therefore, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce urges the governor and legislative leaders to adopt a mechanism that automatically restores the tax cut when specific criteria are met."

We also strongly believe it is time for all Ohioans to work together to develop a bold and comprehensive approach to solving our state's ongoing fiscal crisis. To that end, we look forward to working with our state's business and government leaders to develop recommendations for meaningful and necessary reforms.

Founded in 1893, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce is Ohio's largest statewide business advocacy group. The Chamber works to promote and protect the interests of its members – large and small – while building a more favorable Ohio business climate.

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