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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](http://www.ohiochamber.com)  
[occ@ohiochamber.com](mailto:occ@ohiochamber.com)

## **Ohio Chamber Affirms Importance of Investment in Broadband Technology**

**(COLUMBUS)** – Ohio Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Andrew E. Doehrel, said today that a new report shows investment in broadband technology is critical to job creation and Ohio’s economic competitiveness. The report was released today by Jack Kleinhenz, PhD, Adjunct Professor in Economics at Case Western Reserve University’s Weatherhead School of Management and was done in conjunction with the Digital Policy Institute of Ball State University.

“This study shows that 59 percent of all businesses use broadband as part of their business model. They use it for all kinds of purposes, including online shipment tracking, selling or accepting orders, online training, or contract bidding. In fact, according to this report, half of all companies in Ohio receive \$1.50 of every \$10 in revenue from online transactions. Broadband has become a way of life for Ohio businesses,” Doehrel said.

Dr. Kleinhenz’s work affirms the results of a competitiveness study issued by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce several years ago. “In our study Ohio stacked up well in both technology and physical infrastructure, ranking among the top ten states in all technology infrastructure indicators. So we were not surprised to see that this report shows that Ohio businesses adopt broadband at a slightly higher rate than the nation and that for every five national high speed providers, Ohio has eight,” Doehrel said. “Broadband is an important component of our state’s economic infrastructure – with 15,000 to 30,000 Ohio jobs supported or created each year because of investment in broadband,” he added.

“Doing what is necessary to incentivize the investment in broadband is critical to maintaining our competitive edge. In this fast changing environment, it would be very easy to fall behind,” Doehrel concluded.

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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