

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Ohio Chamber Calls Department of Energy Decision Short-Sighted**

### ***Project would mean thousands of jobs for Ohio***

**COLUMBUS** – The Ohio Chamber of Commerce, today, expressed extreme disappointment in the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) decision to refuse the application submitted by USEC, Inc. for a loan guarantee to fund construction of the American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon. The Chamber has been a strong supporter of the project. “At a time when our state is advocating for new, alternative energy jobs, the U.S. Department of Energy’s decision is both disappointing and short-sighted”, said Jennifer Klein, the Ohio Chamber’s Director of Energy and Environment.

The loan guarantee sought by USEC, Inc. would have provided funding for construction of the American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon. The facility was expected to create more than 3,000 direct and indirect jobs in Ohio and 8,000 jobs across the United States.

“USEC invested a lot of time and money in this project and it is extremely unfortunate the project will not come to fruition”, Klein said. “The American Centrifuge Plant would have provided the dependable U.S.-owned nuclear fuel production capability needed to support our country’s nuclear power plants”, she added. In 2008, USEC applied to the DOE Loan Guarantee Program for \$2 billion to complete the project. The company had already invested approximately \$1.5 billion to move the state-of-the-art uranium enrichment facility forward and had an additional \$1 billion in corporate support lined up.

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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