



February 5, 2010

THIRD FRONTIER RENEWAL HEADED FOR MAY BALLOT

A bipartisan compromise was found this week regarding renewal of the Third Frontier program, enabling a \$700 million, four-year bond issue to be placed on the May 4th ballot. The Ohio Chamber thanks the lawmakers who voted to pass HJR 12, the resolution that will allow Ohioans to vote on renewing the Third Frontier. It was approved by the House on a vote of 83 to 14 and by the Senate on a vote of 30 to 2.

In January, the House and Senate passed different versions of HJR 12. The original House-passed resolution was for a \$950 million, five-year bond issue, while the original Senate-passed version was for \$500 million over four years for the Third Frontier. The Senate also proposed an additional \$100 million for public works projects.

The conference committee on HJR 12 reconciled those differences and adopted an amendment proposing to authorize \$700 million in bonds over four years, beginning in 2012. The conference committee amendment retained language requiring independent, third-party reviews of projects before awarding any grants, but did not include the bond authorization for public works projects in the final resolution.

The Ohio Chamber issued a press release applauding the legislature's action on the Third Frontier. Ohio Chamber President, Andrew Doehrel, said, "Renewing the Third Frontier is vital to growing Ohio's economy. To date, the Third Frontier has been responsible for creating more than 48,000 jobs through \$6.6 billion in investments. We need to generate more good-paying jobs to help get our economy growing again, and that's exactly what this program is about!"

To view the Chamber press release, [click here](#).

Ohio Chamber Staff Contact: Daniel Navin, dnavin@ohiochamber.com