



February 12, 2010

SUPPORT THIRD FRONTIER

Job creation and improving Ohio's economy is paramount in 2010. No issue is on the minds of more Ohioans or has greater importance than jump-starting Ohio's economy. Attracting more investment, cultivating the talent at our colleges and universities, and enhancing our research capabilities are essential to meeting those goals. That is why the Ohio Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the passage of the Third Frontier renewal or State Issue 1 on May 4.

Thanks to the bipartisan work of the Ohio Senate and the House of Representatives Ohio voters will have the opportunity to vote on a four-year, \$700 million extension of the current program. The Ohio Third Frontier program was created to expand the state's high-tech research and commercialization capabilities. Additionally, it aims to focus investments into the development of new, innovative products.

Since it was first approved in 2005, the Third Frontier program has created 48,000 jobs while leveraging total investments of \$6.6 billion into Ohio's economy. Moving forward, it is essential that we build on these successes and incentivize even more businesses to locate and expand their operations in Ohio.

The Third Frontier supports many industry sectors including manufacturing, bioscience, biomedical, renewable energy and research. The program also serves as a retention tool for young talent by giving students at our colleges, universities, two-year community colleges and trade schools the hands-on experience they need through internship opportunities.

For those reasons, the Ohio Chamber will aggressively support passage of Issue 1 on May 4. While engaging our members, local chambers of commerce and their members, we will work with the campaign committee (United for Jobs and Ohio's Future) to educate Ohioans on the opportunities the Third Frontier offers Ohio.

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