

NEWS RELEASE



Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LT. GOVERNOR JOHNSON COMMENDS OHIO FARM BUREAU  
FOR ITS SUPPORT OF OHIO'S TAX REFORM PLAN**

COLUMBUS – Lieutenant Governor Bruce Johnson today applauded the Ohio Farm Bureau's backing of the State's tax reform plan that will grow Ohio's economy, create a more competitive business climate and add new high-paying jobs.

"The support of organizations such as the Ohio Farm Bureau proves that our key industries recognize the urgent need to modernize and revamp Ohio's current tax structure," said Johnson, who also serves as director of the Ohio Department of Development. "Once enacted, this tax reform plan will benefit Ohio farmers, businesses and citizens of the state by creating a more competitive business climate and a strong economy."

Governor Bob Taft announced his tax reform plan last month during his 2005 State of the State Address. The plan would cut personal income tax rates by 21 percent over five years; eliminate state income tax for Ohioans making less than \$10,000 a year; and phase out the tax on equipment and inventory and the corporate tax, replacing them with a broad-based, low-rate commercial activity tax. Overall, the plan would collect \$800 million less over the next two years than the state would receive if today's tax rates remained in place. In conjunction with tax reform, Taft is also calling for restrained state spending and reduced Medicaid growth in his FY 2006-2007 budget proposal, which is the lowest-growth budget presented in Ohio in 40 years.

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**EDITORS NOTE:** Lt. Governor Johnson will be available to discuss the tax reform plan until 6pm today.