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**LT. GOVERNOR VISIT TO CLEVELAND FOCUSES ON ECONOMY, ISSUE 1**

Cleveland – Lt. Governor Johnson today delivered closing remarks at a regular meeting of more than 50 members of the NorTech Board and Technical Resource Council. He spoke about the ongoing effort to improve Ohio’s economy and the Jobs for Ohio Bond Initiative’s role in that effort.

“Through tort reform, tax reform and increased marketing efforts, we are showing the world that Ohio Means Business,” said Johnson, who also serves as state development director. “The next step is to ensure economic development opportunities for all Ohioans by making more investment available for public infrastructure, job ready sites, research, and the development of new technologies.”

Johnson told the audience that the Jobs for Ohio Bond Initiative, Issue 1 on the November 8 ballot, provides the comprehensive infrastructure necessary for today’s economy. The \$2 billion initiative funds three measures; \$1.35 billion over the next ten years for traditional infrastructure, \$500 million over seven years for technology infrastructure and \$150 million over seven years for the creation of job ready sites. “Without raising taxes, Issue 1 ensures local governments can continue building the roads, bridges and water systems that are important to their community, while allowing the state to build upon a technology infrastructure that will attract good jobs in the knowledge economy,” said Johnson.

In Cuyahoga County, more than \$328 million in Public Works grants have supported over \$605 million worth of infrastructure projects, including the 2005 reconstruction of Carnegie Avenue and the 1997 reconstruction of the Ridge Road solid waste transfer station which had been destroyed by fire. Additionally, Cleveland-area institutions and businesses have received more than \$122 million through the Third Frontier project.

Local Third Frontier successes to date include devices that allow patients with drop-foot syndrome associated with strokes to walk more normally and for Parkinson patients to control muscle spasms, developed by the Third Frontier-funded, Ohio Neurostimulation and Neuromodulation Partnership at Case Western Reserve University. Johnson also pointed to a recent announcement by HydroGen that it is moving its world headquarters to northeast Ohio and locating a 400 kW commercial demonstration fuel cell project in northeast Ohio, as well. The project is expected create up to 200 jobs. “From helping reduce our dependence on foreign oil to providing medical breakthroughs that are improving our quality of life, the Third Frontier is preparing us for the knowledge economy,” said Johnson.

In addition to being placed on the ballot with overwhelming bipartisan support, Issue 1 has been endorsed by numerous organizations, including the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Farm Bureau, and the Ohio Chapter of the AFL-CIO. NorTech, a technology-based economic development organization that focuses on continuous improvement of Northeast Ohio’s technology environment and economy, the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, and Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell are among area supporters.

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