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

EASTGATE – Lt. Governor Johnson today delivered a keynote address to more than 100 business, community and economic development leaders attending the Clermont Chamber Legislative Luncheon. 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 Clermont County alone, the Public Works Commission has provided more than \$46.2 million in funding, resulting in more than \$87 million in projects being constructed. These projects include the West Main Street improvements in Batavia in 2004 and Belfast Owensville and Stonelick Williams Corner Road Emergency Bridge Replacements in 2002. Additionally, \$44.6 million in Third Frontier dollars have gone to Southwest Ohio awardees. Local companies involved include Batavia’s Milacron, which is a collaborator on OSU’s Ohio Center for Multifunctional Polymer Nanomaterials and Devices. Also, Amelia’s American Modern Insurance is a collaborator on the Ohio FiberLab Network, which is expanding the Third Frontier Network for large bandwidth applications.

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. Local supporters include the Clermont County Commissioners, State Senator Tom Niehaus, and State Representative Joseph Uecker.

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