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CONTACT: Merle Madrid at (614) 466-4133
or Lisa Hackley at (614) 466-2609

LT. GOV. JOHNSON DISCUSSES FOREIGN TRADE

Meeting with Appalachian businesses highlights opportunities for export

IRONTON (March 2, 2006) – Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson today met with local business owners and craftsmen to encourage participation in a regional trade delegation traveling to a woodcraft and furniture trade show in China, while stressing the importance of exporting to Ohio’s economy.

“The fact that locally crafted wood and lumber products are being shipped to places as far away as China is an example of the excellent craftsmanship and quality of these products,” said Johnson, who also serves as director of the Ohio Department of Development. “It is an example of the economic progress the Appalachian area is making, while still retaining local traditions and values.”

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) worked with federal, state and local partners to coordinate the mission, titled Orient Success. The goal of the mission is to create and expand sales opportunities for the Appalachian region’s furniture, home-furnishings and wood and lumber products.

China is a vast market for Ohio exports. As Ohio’s sixth largest export market, more than \$962 million worth of goods and services were exported in 2004. The Chinese market is especially important to Ohio’s lumber and wood industry, as demonstrated by the 134 percent increase in exports, from \$9 million to \$21 million, between 2003 and 2004.

The Appalachian Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership that works with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life. In Ohio, the Governor’s Office of Appalachia represents the interests of the 29 counties comprising East Central, Southeast and Southern Ohio.

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