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**NORTHEAST OHIO CITY COUNCIL ASSOCIATION UNANIMOUSLY
ENDORSES MAYORS' REGIONALISM INITIATIVE**

CLEVELAND - Oct. 3, 2008 – The Northeast Ohio City Council Association (NOCCA), voted unanimously to support the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) for the 16-county Northeast Ohio region at its general membership meeting on Sept. 25, 2008. NOCCA President, Cleveland Councilman Matt Zone (Ward 17), made a motion to endorse and support the region wide land use planning and new growth revenue sharing initiative for Northeast Ohio, and was seconded by Councilman Don Saunders of Bedford, Ohio.

“To achieve meaningful results, it is critical to have support though all levels of municipal leadership, including mayors, city managers and city councils”, said Zone. “The unanimous vote to endorse and support from NOCCA is a pivotal and positive step forward in the pursuit of a regional economic development initiative.”

NOCCA is a dynamic association of elected Northeast Ohio council people dedicated to increasing their effectiveness through education, empowerment and engagement.

“The RPI is truly a change in thinking. For too long communities in our region, large and small, have competed with one another, let alone the rest of the world, for economic growth, new employers or jobs and maximum use of resources,” said Hudson Mayor William A. Currin, who also serves as chair of RPI. “This leads to a ‘go-it-alone, winner take all’ environment, where services are duplicated and valuable resources and funds are diminished. It is critical for Northeast Ohio to actively pursue some type of regional cooperation to compete economically on a national and international level. We are thrilled to have NOCCA members’ unanimous vote of support.”

The goal of the RPI is to develop and implement a comprehensive, collaborative, sustainable, non-partisan program of region-wide land use planning and new growth revenue sharing for Northeast Ohio in order to accelerate smart economic development. The RPI is a collaborative effort jointly funded by the Fund for Our Economic Future and contributing members of the NEOM&CMA.

For more information regarding the Northeast Ohio City Council Association, please visit www.noccassoc.org. For more information on RPI, please visit www.neo-rpi.org

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