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**NORTHEAST OHIO MAYORS AND CITY MANAGERS ASSOCIATION VOTES
TO FURTHER EXPLORE REVENUE SHARING AND
REGION-WIDE PLANNING**

(INDEPENDENCE, Ohio) – The members present at a special meeting of the Northeast Ohio Mayors & City Managers Association (NEOM&CMA) overwhelmingly supported a motion to further explore the initial results of the Regional Economic Revenue Study (RERS) and to pursue four strategic directions in Phase II of the study.

The RERS, a collaborative effort jointly funded by the Fund for Our Economic Future and contributing members of the NEOM&CMA, is an initiative created to examine existing regional revenue sharing and land use planning models that have been effective in other regions of the United States. The study has selected and researched the successful and most applicable aspects of those various regional models and has recommended application in Northeast Ohio.

“A year ago, our association commissioned a study to identify a comprehensive, collaborative, sustainable and non partisan recommendation for region-wide planning and revenue sharing,” said William A. Currin, Chairman of the NEOM&CMA. “Today, Republican mayors, Democratic mayors, nonpartisan mayors, mayors from large cities and rural village mayors came together under one notion; that we must collaboratively advance the region. There is a strong recognition indicated by the historic vote that reflects the old adage, ‘A rising tide raises all ships.’”

The RERS spent much of 2007 studying successful region-wide revenue sharing and planning models that helped bolster economic growth within these regions across the United States. During an April 9th meeting of the RERS Advisory Committee, members present voted unanimously in favor of moving forward with the study initiatives. These initiatives will address specific issues for establishing a region-wide planning and revenue sharing program in an effort to improve, stimulate and accelerate economic conditions in Northeast Ohio.

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“The momentum and excitement from our April 9th advisory committee propelled us to a monumental vote,” said Village of Richfield Mayor Michael K. Lyons. “The vote, following more than a year of research and work by both the RERS Ad Hoc and Advisory Committees, is a strong step toward coordination and cooperation as a region. We have identified the challenges we face as a region, and we are focused on overcoming those challenges,” Lyons said, who also serves as an ad hoc committee member.

The study began with the formation of an ad hoc committee, comprised of elected officials, business professionals, regionalism experts and researchers, according to Currin. From there, an advisory committee of mayors, city managers, county commissioners, planning directors and other area leaders were chosen to provide input for the ad hoc committee during the study.

“I am proud of our mayors for taking an active step forward to begin developing solutions to some of our region’s most difficult issues, notably how to stop competing with one another, and how we can all join together to compete as a region,” said Pepper Pike Mayor Bruce H. Akers and RERS Ad Hoc Committee member.

Currently, more than 30 municipalities have financially contributed to the study. This demonstrates the level of interest and desire for regional cooperation, Akers added.

The study research consultants also include Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs, Lorain County Community College Public Services Institute and regionalism expert Myron Orfield’s Ameregis Group.

For more information regarding the RERS, visit www.revenuestudy.com.

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