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Regional Prosperity Initiative Receives Unanimous Support from Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber

Dec. 2, 2009 - Representing more than 3,000 area employers, the Warren/Youngstown Regional Chamber Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI), an effort led by the Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association (NEOM&CMA). The Regional Chamber is the first chamber of commerce in Northeast Ohio to support the initiative to implement a new growth revenue sharing and land use planning program to bolster economic growth in the 16-county Northeast Ohio region.

"The Regional Prosperity Initiative is a tremendous idea that is in line with the initiatives and goals of the Regional Chamber: improving economic development through collaboration, cooperation and regional thinking," said Regional Chamber President and CEO Tom Humphries.

Prior to the board of directors' unanimous approval, the Regional Chamber's Government Affairs Council voted to recommend that the Chamber Board support the study. Additionally, representatives from the RPI, including Hudson Mayor William A. Currin and Richfield Village Mayor Michael K. Lyons, presented key findings from Phase I (known then as the Regional Economic Revenue Study) and discussed the direction moving forward to the Regional Chamber.

"We are certainly excited to receive the Regional Chamber's support for our initiative to bolster economic development in Northeast Ohio," said Currin. "The endorsement of such a large chamber is the result of two very important actions. The first is that the Regional Chamber understands the realities of today's global economy and that we can no longer compete against each other here in Northeast Ohio. We must work together. Second, RPI is succeeding in its strategic plan to reach out to communities and communicate the benefits of this initiative and clarify any misunderstandings."

Lyons valued the endorsement and indicated the Regional Chamber's active engagement is essential to the study's implementation.

"The RPI is not just a study to tell us the challenges we face here in Northeast Ohio," said Lyons. "The purpose is to learn from our current situation and improve it. As we continue to reach out and engage business leaders, school districts, legislators, council members, township trustees and philanthropic organizations their support comes with a very real and enthusiastic yearning for this to be implemented so the region can enhance its economic growth."

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