May 25, 2016

The Honorable John Kasich
Ohio Governor

The Honorable Keith Faber
Ohio Senate President

The Honorable Cliff Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives

Dear Governor Kasich, Senate President Faber and Speaker Rosenberger,

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce represents over 2,700 employers, which represents over 200,000 employees throughout a 9 county region in southwest Ohio.

We are writing today to commend your combined efforts to address the State of Ohio’s debt to the federal unemployment loan fund. Ballooning unemployment debt interest has placed an undue burden on the Dayton and Ohio business community, employers have been bearing too much of the burden, for too long, as Ohio repays its debt.

The Dayton Chamber has advocated for the past two years that this problem be addressed and we are happy to see the commitment from the Administration and General Assembly to address this issue. Your efforts represent a collaborative effort to save Ohio businesses an estimated $405 million, which can be reinvested into growing Dayton and Ohio companies and jobs. In the simplest of terms, your plan to address this debt immediately will be noticed in a direct cost reduction for employers.

Timely repayment of the Ohio unemployment debt should not be done in a vacuum. Our legislative leadership should also take the necessary steps to ensure solvency is returned to the Ohio unemployment compensation fund, with minimal burdens on the business community. Ensuring that we are on sound financial footing will protect us from having to rely on the federal government for assistance in the future and will save employers from having to bear this burden again.

Thank you for your commitment to the Dayton and Ohio business community, and thank you for collaborating to address this critical issue for the business community.

Sincerely,

Phillip L. Parker, CAE, CCE
President & CEO