

DAYTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Economic recovery depends on workforce: An open letter to United States Congress

As the region's business advocate, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and our member businesses below submit the following letter for immediate consideration before the United States Congress:

Dear United States Congress: After a long and difficult pandemic year, the United States is opening up again. May 2021 is looking very different from May 2020. Businesses are returning to full-steam, goods are being produced and shipped, and colleagues who haven't sat together in a year are returning to workplaces eager to collaborate. The economic engine of the American economy is ready to charge forth.

Mission No. 1 is to get the economy fully reopened and operating so we can position the Dayton region for an unprecedented recovery. But there is one challenge that threatens to derail this progress and is preventing businesses from reopening at the speed of demand, one challenge that impacts every industry sector of our economy. Workforce.

To be clear, many businesses across the country were struggling to find the talent they needed even before the pandemic. We understand that workforce challenges are multi-faceted, complex and vary widely based on geographic location and industry. But what was challenging pre-pandemic has now become untenable. During the month of April 2021, 78% of Dayton-area employers are struggling to recruit work-

ers. Our economy cannot fully reopen when only 25% of businesses are able to fill their job demands.

As business leaders we are struggling to recruit enough workers to meet the basic needs of our organizations, let alone enough workers to ramp up our business to the levels that the economy is truly demanding. This isn't just a problem for those of us who are manufacturers; it's a problem for the health-care industry, construction companies, the logistics and transportation industry, service providers, the restaurant and hospitality industry, public sector, supply chains and the list goes on and on.

The extended pandemic unemployment benefits were a critical and necessary lifeline to displaced workers at the height of the pandemic. Now they are proving to be a disincentive to workers returning to jobs with steady paychecks and they are preventing our businesses from fully meeting our consumer demands. By the time the COVID-19 federal unemployment extensions expire in September, there will be fewer jobs for those workers to return to, as companies that can't find talent could shutter for good or find a new path.

Economic recovery and growth is possible only if companies are able to find the workforce they need. There is no doubt that federal aid was critical to overcoming the worst days of the pandemic. However, we must stop dis-incentivizing workers to return to their jobs and careers. Taking care of those in need is important

Residential Home Sales

	February '21	February '20	%Change	YTD '21	YTD '20	%Change
Number of Homes Sold	1056	1429	-26.10%	2190	2794	-21.62%
Total Home Sales	\$197,928,332	\$175,434,750	12.82%	\$396,689,451	\$334,089,446	18.74%
Average Sale Price (\$)	\$193,507	\$175,085	10.83%	\$193,507	\$172,389	12.25%

Source: Dayton Area Board of Realtors, Dayton Area Home Sales

Sales Tax Collections

County	Current Rate	February 2021	February 2020	12 Mos Change	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	YTD Change
Butler	0.75	\$3,666,011	\$2,909,161	26.02%	\$8,427,484	\$7,576,692	11.23%
Clark	1.5	\$2,158,397	\$1,917,898	12.54%	\$5,039,725	\$4,679,439	7.7%
Darke	1.5	\$757,640	\$719,166	5.35%	\$1,724,549	\$1,654,436	4.24%
Greene	1	\$2,319,336	\$2,219,772	4.49%	\$5,416,929	\$5,337,937	1.48%
Miami	1.25	\$1,601,696	\$1,521,374	5.28%	\$3,693,079	\$3,436,166	7.48%
Montgomery	1.25	\$8,100,932	\$7,681,437	5.46%	\$18,118,211	\$17,722,081	2.24%
Preble	1.5	\$541,834	\$454,099	19.32%	\$1,180,280	\$1,016,263	16.14%
Warren	1.25	\$4,327,575	\$4,058,894	6.62%	\$10,307,535	\$9,837,928	4.77%
Region Total		\$23,473,420	\$21,481,800	9.27%	\$53,907,792	\$51,260,942	5.16%

Source: https://tax.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/tax/researcher/tax-analysis/tax-data-series/publications_tds_sales

to all of our businesses. This issue is not about ignoring those who are in need, it is about helping the economy reopen and creating a pathway forward for our most important resource, our people.

As of June 26, 2021, Ohio is supporting our economic recovery by opting out of the \$300 federal pandemic unemployment benefit. This action will help Dayton area and Ohio businesses attract and retain a much needed workforce to keep up with the demand of their consumers. Dayton area businesses do not just operate in Dayton, they operate across the country and around the world. For the Dayton region and Ohio to be competitive in a global economy, the nation needs to be competitive. We call on you, our elected

delegation in Washington D.C., to follow Ohio's lead and end the increased federal unemployment extension and help our national economy fully reopen by allowing our businesses to fill jobs openings and meet the economic recovery demands.

Sincerely,
Barry Staff
Beavercreek Chamber of Commerce
BelFLEX Staffing Network
Benjamin Steel Co.
Brady Ware & Company
Brixey & Meyer
CareSource
Darke County Chamber of Commerce
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Dayton Area Logistics Association
Dayton Region Manufacturers Assn.
DayMet Credit Union

Edge Webware, Inc.
Energy Optimizers, USA
EnviroControl Systems Inc.
Faruki PLL
Fifty-Five Manufacturing dba Global Foam Company
Fuyao Glass America
Grunder Landscaping Co.
ISupply Company
K-12 Gallery/Tejas
Korrek Plumbing
LJB Inc.
Martin Transportation Systems
Mason Deerfield Chamber
Miami Industrial Trucks Inc.
Miller-Valentine Construction
Northmont Area Chamber of Commerce
O'Neil & Associates
P & R Communications
Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce
PNC Bank
PuroClean Dayton

RLO Inc. dba Great Clips
Rush Delivery
Russ Hadick & Associates, Inc.
Shook Construction
Springboro Chamber of Commerce
Starco Inc.
Staub Manufacturing Solutions
Sydney-Shelby County Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Commerce Serving Middletown, Monroe & Trenton
Think Patented
Tipp City Chamber of Commerce
Troy Area Chamber of Commerce
Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce
Voss Auto Network
WENCO Construction Company, LLC
Young's Jersey Dairy

DAYTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register for all events at DaytonChamber.org.

■ In-person: Legislative Day in Columbus, June 8, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Topic -- Policy and Government Affairs with Elected Officials. Location -- The Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus

■ Virtual: Safety Breakfast with the Experts, June 17, 8-9 a.m. Topic -- Workplace Health and Safety: The WELL Health-Safety Seal
■ In-person: Leadership Dayton Alumni Night at the Levitt, June 17, 6-9 p.m. Location -- Levitt Pavilion Dayton, 134 S. Main St., Dayton

■ In-person: Sixth Annual Southwest Ohio Logistics Conference, June 22, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Speakers -- Ken Eckrote, Proctor & Gamble; Chris Spear, American Trucking Association. Location -- Sinclair Conference Center, 444 W. Third St., Dayton.

BUSINESS AWARDS

Dayton Freight recognized

Dayton Freight Lines, Inc., a leading provider of regional less-than-truckload (LTL) transportation services, has been recognized as the 2020-2021 Scotwood Industries Regional Carrier of the Year by FLI Transportation and Logistics. Key points contributing to FLI's decision to award Dayton include flexibility in working with multiple locations with varying hours and pickup requirements, ability to accommodate large volumes of freight - often on the same day, and operational excellence at the Chicago and St. Louis Service Centers. FLI Dir. of Sales and Operations, John Hartmann, shared, "The consistent above and beyond performance provided by the Dayton Freight team, across the region, helped to ensure a successful Scotwood season."

FLI Transportation and Logistics is a third-party logistics provider to many national and global brands. FLI offers freight management solutions for LTL, FTL, International, small parcel and specialized services.

Founded in 1981, Dayton Freight is a private, union-free, less-than truckload (LTL) freight carrier headquartered in Dayton.

Greenwich Excellence Awards

CLEVELAND — **KeyBank** is being recognized for its support of small business clients by the Greenwich Excellence Awards, both nationally and regionally in 2020, highlighting the bank's accomplishments in client satisfaction, Relationship Manager interaction, and cash management. The awards - determined through a survey of more than 12,000 interviews with businesses between \$1 million and \$10 million in revenues, evaluated 600 banks and named KeyBank among a select group of organizations performing in support and service for small businesses.

The Greenwich Excellence Awards come during an unprecedented time of need for small businesses, which are looking for increased support from their banks to weather the impact of the pandemic.

"These awards are really

special because they exemplify how we rose to the challenges faced by our clients and communities," said Kip Clarke, Head of KeyBank Business Banking. "We put a special focus on relationship banking, truly knowing our clients and their needs. We are proud of how hard our teammates worked and appreciative of the recognition they deserve."

As the Greenwich survey responses were gathered, businesses across the nation were reliant on the support of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and in most cases, they acquired these loans through their primary bank. During the first two phases of PPP in 2020, KeyBank processed more than 43,000 applications, totaling more than \$8.1 billion in funding.

Last year was also a landmark year for KeyBank with SBA 7(a) loans. Small business clients were able to acquire \$316 million in SBA 7(a) loans, ranking KeyBank 7th in the nation among financial institutions.

KeyBank received six National Greenwich Excellence Awards, along with

seven Regional Greenwich Excellence Awards. Among the regional awards, the Northeast, Midwest, and West regions of KeyBank's teams were recognized. KeyBank is one of just 32 banks to be included in this year's awards.

For more information, visit <https://www.key.com/>. KeyBank is Member FDIC. ©2021.

Society inductees

COLUMBUS — Each year at InVest48, the Ohio Credit Union League recognizes inductees into the Ohio Credit Union Foundation's William A. Herring Society. Honoring credit union leaders for their unwavering commitment and contribution to members, their credit union, and their communities continue to celebrate the Credit Union Difference. Society inductees inspire us with their passion, integrity, and distinguished service. This year's honorees share in the common mission and belief in changing lives through the power of credit unions.

2021 William A. Herring Society Inductees:

■ **Tricia Metzner**, TruPartner Credit Union, Cincinnati: For more than 35 years, Metzner's unique care and attention for helping others achieve their dreams, paired with her expertise and talents, continue to shape the lives of those she impacts each day. As Cincinnati Central Credit Union and Communicating Arts Credit Union came together to form TruPartner Credit Union, Tricia drew from her experience and dedication to help bring both credit unions together while enhancing the experience and service needed and demanded by the members served.

■ **Marty Auxter**, Ohio Credit Union League, Columbus: With more than 30 years of credit union service under his belt, Auxter spent 27 of them with the Ohio Credit Union League. Over his storied League career, Marty's ideas, influence, and impact remain woven into the organization and its relentless pursuit to drive credit union success. His steadfast commitment to upholding cooperation, delivering an enhanced member experience, and making

market differentiation a reality helped lead the Ohio Shared Branching Network to extraordinary heights.

■ **Helen Burdsall**, Day Air Credit Union, Dayton: Burdsall's commitment to excellence and service shines through her 17-year tenure as a volunteer leader on the Day Air Credit Union Board of Directors. Holding various positions of Director, Associate Director, Treasurer, Chair of the Credit Committee, and Chair of the Finance Committee, Helen puts her heart and soul into serving the credit union and its members. Her impressive knowledge and dedication to philosophy-in-action remain extremely valuable to the credit union's success as Day Air continues to grow and invest heavily in the local community.

The Ohio Credit Union League, with offices in Columbus, is the state trade association representing the collective interests of 243 credit unions. Credit unions are not-for-profit financial institutions owned and democratically controlled by their members.

Craftsmen

continued from D1

7517 State Route 202 in Tipp City in June 2018.

Last year, the family went looking for a workshop space and found that the South Second Street space in Miamisburg worked well.

"After speaking with the building owner about our Tipp store, what we offer, and our vision for Simple Craftsmen, he mentioned the store space available at the front of the building," Popejoy said. "In January, we made the decision to open the second location here in Miamisburg."

She said Simple Craftsmen chose Miamisburg because it's "a wonderful city with plenty of community engagement."

"A lot of Miamisburg residents have told us that they'd like to see more retail establishments downtown, and that we seemed like a great fit," Popejoy said. "Everyone

we've spoken with, from clients to other businesses, have been so welcoming. The positive feedback is very encouraging, and we're so happy to be here."

Opening the Miamisburg location has allowed Simple Craftsmen to grow, she said. "We already have orders for custom woodworking

projects, antique restoration projects and more," Popejoy said. "Everyone that has stopped in the store seems to appreciate the quality of our antiques and woodworking."

Hand-crafted wood products at the shop range from river cutting boards to river tables, Lichtenberg coasters

to coat racks, and more.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday to Saturday. For more information, visit www.simplecraftsmen.com. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, May 27.

Contact this reporter at eric.schwartzberg@coxinc.com.