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Taylor Testifies in Support of CSI Ohio Legislation

Announces reform for food manufacturers as one example of needed improvements

Columbus – Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor today called on the General Assembly to help her and Gov. John R. Kasich tear down barriers to job growth by quickly passing legislation to initiate CSI Ohio: the Common Sense Initiative. The legislation requires a review and evaluation process of Ohio’s business regulation policies that she and Kasich announced last year. As an example of the kinds of benefits that CSI Ohio hopes to bring to Ohio job-creators, Taylor announced a proposed reform to Ohio’s liquor laws that will remove barriers currently holding back Ohio food manufacturing companies.

Taylor made the announcement during testimony today before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee in support of S.B. 2 sponsored by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus).

“We continue to hear from Ohio businesses who want to grow, expand and create jobs that bureaucracy and regulation holds them back,” Taylor said. “That is precisely why we established the Common Sense Initiative—to cut through the red tape and eliminate burdensome, costly and duplicative rules and regulations so that businesses and entrepreneurs can more easily put their job-creating ideas into action and help revive Ohio’s economy.”

As an example of regulations standing in the way of job creation, Taylor cited liquor regulations that force food processing companies that make large batches of sauces or soups – some of which may contain alcohol as an ingredient – to purchase their beer, wine or spirits at retail stores instead of in bulk from wholesalers. This increases their costs, adds operating hurdles that reduce their competitiveness and ultimately impacts their ability to grow and create new jobs.

Taylor was made aware of the problem by Avon Mayor James A. Smith when a local company, Custom Culinary, a producer of soups, sauces, purees and gravies for national restaurant chains, raised the concern with him.

Taylor’s CSI Ohio developed a proposed solution in less than a week for the problem that has dogged the company for more than two years. Sen. Gayle Manning (R- North Ridgeville), who represents the City of Avon, will introduce legislation in the Ohio Senate to resolve the problem and allow Ohio food manufacturers to be just as competitive as those in other states.

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