



May 21, 2018

The Honorable Kirk Schuring  
Speaker Pro Tempore  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Vern Riffe State Government Center  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Schuring and Members of the House of Representatives:

As leaders of Ohio's largest statewide business organizations, we are writing to express our collective concern over the current absence of a Speaker of the Ohio House. As you well know, the void in office of the Speaker is preventing significant policy deliberation and votes on matters important to economic investment, job creation and retention.

Ohio's business climate continues to improve. We have made significant strides, but additional policy priorities are pending in the legislature, including regulatory reform, workforce education and development, tax matters, additional tort measures, and meaningful unemployment compensation reform. Our interest – and we believe that of House members – is that the General Assembly take up the policy issues that will continue to support and improve Ohio's economy and the welfare of its citizens. Without a Speaker – and with the distracting controversy of electing one – we risk timely progress.

We implore members of the House Republican caucus to set aside differences and preferences and focus on the needs of our great state. Specifically, we urge the prompt selection and subsequent election of a capable and principled leader to guide the House through the remainder of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

We deeply care about the institution – as do you. Our economy depends on a functional House of Representatives working to solve current and future challenges. We look forward to continuing to work with you and wish you success in the selection of Ohio's next Speaker of the Ohio House.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Roger R. Geiger in blue ink.

**Roger R. Geiger**  
Vice President & Executive Director  
National Federation of Independent Business, Ohio

Handwritten signature of Patrick J. Tiberi in blue ink.

**Patrick J. Tiberi**  
President & CEO  
Ohio Business Roundtable

Handwritten signature of Andrew E. Doehrel in blue ink.

**Andrew E. Doehrel**  
President & CEO  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Handwritten signature of Adam Sharp in blue ink.

**Adam Sharp**  
Executive Vice President  
Ohio Farm Bureau

Handwritten signature of Gordon M. Gough in blue ink.

**Gordon M. Gough**  
President & CEO  
The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

Handwritten signature of Eric L. Burkland in blue ink.

**Eric L. Burkland**  
President  
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association