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June 28, 2017

The Honorable John Kasich  
Governor of the State of Ohio  
30th Floor  
77 S. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Gov. Kasich,

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I respectfully request that you utilize your gubernatorial line-item veto powers to remove two provisions contained in the House Bill 49 Conference Committee report. Neither of these provisions can be characterized as pro-business and they conflict with the goals I know we share of making Ohio more competitive and growing our economy.

**Item #1**

*Board of Tax Appeals Decisions*

This provision eliminates the important taxpayer right to make a direct appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court from a decision of the Board of Tax Appeals. Uniform application of tax law is critical to good tax policy and overall economic competitiveness.

Unfortunately, by eliminating the direct appeal, the costs of tax appeals would increase and tax law could be applied differently across Ohio.

**Item #2**

*Cash Transfers from Employer-Funded Agencies*

This provision grants the director of the Office of Budget and Management the authority to transfer up to 2% of several agencies' budgets, including the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Industrial Commission budgets, to the General Revenue Fund. The money that funds these two budgets comes entirely from employers' workers' compensation premiums. It would set an extremely dangerous precedent to allow the state to raid the budgets of these exclusively employer-funded agencies in order to fund general government operations and, in essence, is a 2% tax increase on employers.

Both of these provisions were late additions by the Senate, resulting in little to no opportunity to debate their merits. While the Ohio Chamber, as outlined above, has significant concerns with each of them, they deserve, at the very least, more thorough consideration as to their potential implications.

For these reasons, we urge you to reject these two provisions and veto them entirely from HB 49. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 614-629-0931 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Lake", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keith Lake

Vice President, Government Affairs