



State Representative Timothy J. DeGeeter

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THIRD FRONTIER RENEWAL –STATE ISSUE 1 ON MAY 2010 PRIMARY BALLOT

Job creation and retention is currently a number one priority in the legislature. Ohio's Third Frontier Program is one key initiative that, if approved by voters, will continue to create high-tech, good paying jobs for Ohioans.

The Third Frontier is a program within the Ohio Department of Development that was created in 2002 with a 10-year initial life and a \$1.6 billion commitment in investments to support technology in fields such as biomedical, advanced and alternative energy.

Just last week, the Ohio Department of Development announced that since the program's inception in 2002, it has helped create 55,000 jobs in Ohio and has assisted in the creation, attraction, and capitalization of more than 600 businesses. According to an independent evaluation, over the past seven years Ohio's Third Frontier created over \$2.4 billion in employee wages and benefits. The report also revealed that taxpayers were seeing more than a 10 to one return on their investment. That means from 2003 to 2008, an investment of \$681 million of state expenditures resulted in over \$6.6 billion of statewide economic impact.

The program was set to expire in 2012. In response, both democrats and republicans, including myself, recently voted with overwhelming support to place a \$700 million, four-year renewal of Ohio's Third Frontier Program on the May 4 ballot. If met with voter approval, the program will place Ohio at the forefront of high-tech research and innovation.

Northeast Ohio could especially benefit from this program, since nearly half the amount of total grant money was awarded to Northeast Ohio-based companies and research organizations from 2002-2009. Just recently, here in Parma, it was announced that GrafTech International was awarded a \$915,000 grant for an advanced technology project. GrafTech has also garnered

a number of awards in past years including: \$973,154 in 2008 for a fuel cell program, \$7,945,465 in 2007 for a research and commercialization program, and \$602,044 in 2005 for a fuel cell program.

I urge you to vote yes on Issue 1 in support of Ohio's Third Frontier Program this May.