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January 23, 2013

The Honorable John R. Kasich  
Governor of Ohio  
The State House  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich:

We write to appeal strongly to you to continue accelerating the pace of education improvement in Ohio. While progress has been made in the past few years, we have much more work to do before our educational system will be equal to the task of preparing young Ohioans for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century global economy. Please keep your foot on the gas pedal here as you have done with reforms like the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and A-F school report cards.

This is a critical issue for the Ohio business community. Some would say, and we agree, it is a national security issue as well.

Our ability to compete is directly related to our ability to hire young people who are prepared to deal with today's technology, prepared to run today's complex machinery, and prepared to analyze and think in a way that restores Ohio to the economic leadership it once enjoyed.

Here is the fact about the job picture in Ohio: Our companies today have tens of thousands of challenging and rewarding jobs that are going unfilled because young people seeking them lack the basic educational qualifications to hold them.

These are good jobs that pay the kind of money that enable our employees to buy homes, raise families, pay for their children's college education, and generally enjoy the lifestyle that our great state offers.

As each attempt is made to ramp up the pace of educational improvement, it is greeted by voices that say we're going too fast and "need a break" from the pace of school reform. This despite the fact that today, 41 percent of Ohio high school graduates attending Ohio public colleges need remediation in math or English – just to be able to do freshman work.

We know that Ohioans are up to the challenge. Workers across the state have regularly performed business and production miracles to meet the challenges of companies from overseas now competing in our markets. Their sons and daughters in school, together with Ohio's teachers, can do the same thing – if they are properly led and inspired. To be sure, parents play a key role here.

And so to the mothers and fathers of Ohio, we in business say that we are ready and anxious to hire your sons and daughters to challenging and rewarding careers. Your side of this bargain is to insist on educational improvements now that prepare them for this work. After all, progress in five years is of no help to your son or daughter in high school today. Delay in doing a job we all know needs to be done negatively impacts your son or daughter – and deprives business of its most important asset: talent.

Accenture – James Struntz  
Akron Children's Hospital – William Considine  
American Electric Power – Nick Akins  
American Financial – Carl Lindner III and Craig Lindner  
The Andersons – Michael Anderson  
Aultman Health Foundation – Ed Roth  
Battelle Memorial Institute – Jeffrey Wadsworth  
Bob Evans Farms, Inc. – Steven A. Davis \*  
Bricker & Eckler – Kurtis Tunnell  
Cardinal Health – George Barrett  
CareSource – Pamela Morris  
The Castellini Group of Companies – Robert Castellini  
Catholic Healthcare Partners – Michael Connelly  
Cincinnati Bell – Phillip Cox \*  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital – Michael Fisher  
Cintas Corporation – Scott D. Farmer  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation – Delos M. Cosgrove, M.D. \*  
Columbia Gas of Ohio – John W. Partridge, Jr.  
Convergys Corporation – Andrea Ayres  
Crane Group – Tanny Crane \*  
Deloitte & Touche LLP – John McEwan  
Diebold, Incorporated – Thomas Swidarski  
Dinsmore & Shohl, LLC, George H. Vincent  
Dispatch Printing Company – John F. Wolfe  
Duke Energy – James Henning  
Ernst & Young LLP – Craig Marshall  
Fifth Third Bancorp – Kevin Kabat  
FirstEnergy Corp. – Anthony J. Alexander  
Forest City Enterprises – Albert Ratner  
Frisch's Restaurants – Craig F. Maier  
General Electric – David L. Joyce  
Healthcare REIT – George Chapman  
Honda of America Mfg., Inc. – Hidenobu Iwata  
Huntington Bancshares Inc. – Stephen D. Steinour \*  
Invacare Corporation – A. Malachi Mixon III  
The J. M. Smucker Company – Richard Smucker \*  
JP Morgan Chase – James Malz  
Jones Day – Lyle Ganske  
KeyCorp – Beth Mooney  
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KPMG, LLP – Philip R. Smith  
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Longaberger Company – Tami Longaberger  
Marathon Petroleum Company – Gary R. Heminger \*  
McKinsey & Company – John Warner \*  
Medical Mutual of Ohio – Rick Chiricosta  
Mercy Medical Center – Sisters of Charity – Tom Cecconi  
M/I Homes – Robert Schottenstein  
Nationwide – Steve Rasmussen  
Nationwide Children's Hospital – Steve Allen, M.D.  
New Albany Company – John W. Kessler  
North American Properties – Thomas L. Williams \*  
OhioHealth – David P. Blom  
The Ohio State University – E. Gordon Gee  
Owens Corning – Michael Thaman \*  
Owens-Illinois – Albert Stroucken \*  
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PricewaterhouseCoopers – Michael Petrecca  
The Procter & Gamble Company – Robert McDonald  
RPM International, Inc. – Frank C. Sullivan \*  
Scotts Miracle-Gro – James Hagedorn  
Sherwin-Williams – Christopher Connor \*  
Squire Sanders & Dempsey – Alex Shumate  
State Auto – Robert Restrepo  
State Farm Insurance – Susan Krieger  
Time Warner Cable – Jack Herbert  
The Timken Company – Ward J. Timken, Jr. \*  
TriHealth – John Prout  
UnitedHealth Group, Inc. – Rob Falkenberg  
University Hospitals Health System – Thomas Zenty  
WellPoint / Anthem – Erin Hoefflinger  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease – Russell Gertemian  
Western & Southern Financial Group – John F. Barrett \*

*Member of the Executive Committee \**

For 20 years, education has been the Roundtable's transcending stake in the ground for a healthy economy. Nothing matters more than quality early learning, k-12 reform and college completion – they all go together. But on each of these things, it is leadership that moves the dial. In fact, research we conducted last year with the distinguished Public Agenda organization demonstrated conclusively that Ohio schools, even schools with high levels of poverty among the student body, can succeed with the presence of strong leadership.

From the Governor's office to the Principal's office, leadership is always the difference. We appreciate your leadership efforts to date, which demonstrate that difficult problems can be attacked and solved if there is clear vision and determination to do so. We stand ready to work with you to meet this important challenge.

Sincerely,

BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE:



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Co-Chairman  
Chairman  
Cincinnati Bell



Michael H. Thaman  
Co-Chairman  
Chairman and CEO  
Owens Corning



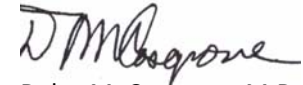
Frank C. Sullivan  
Chair-Education Initiative  
Chairman and CEO  
RPM International, Inc.



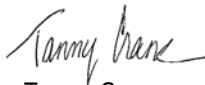
John F. Barrett  
Chairman and CEO  
Western & Southern Financial Group



Christopher M. Connor  
Chairman and CEO  
The Sherwin-Williams Company



Delos M. Cosgrove, M.D.  
President and CEO  
Cleveland Clinic



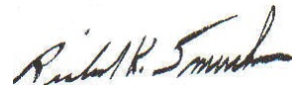
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Bob Evans Farms



Gary R. Heminger  
President and CEO  
Marathon Petroleum



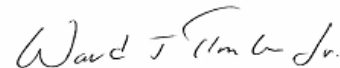
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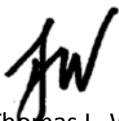
Ward J. Timken, Jr.  
Chairman  
The Timken Company



John Warner  
Director and Senior Partner  
McKinsey and Company



Leslie H. Wexner  
Chairman and CEO  
Limited Brands



Thomas L. Williams  
President and CEO  
North American Properties



Richard A. Stoff  
President and CEO  
Ohio Business Roundtable