ACTOHIO
AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES

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December 5, 2016

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives
The Riffe Center, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Senate President Keith Faber
The Ohio Senate
Ohio Statehouse, Room 201
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Unemployment Compensation

Speaker Rosenberger & Senate President Faber:

As you are aware, the Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation ("ACT Ohio") and the Operating Engineers Local 18 have been working closely with the business community, the labor community, the Kasich Administration and your members on the difficult issue of unemployment compensation. Clearly, it appears to me that the aforementioned are all in agreement that maintaining the status quo with regard to Ohio's unemployment compensation trust fund is not an option. More directly, we collectively must work together to find a formula that achieves solvency.

The purpose of this correspondence is two-fold. First, on behalf of ACT Ohio and the Operating Engineers, allow me to reiterate our commitment to fully participate in continuing efforts to find a solution that meets our collective goal of a solvent trust fund. With utilization of a third-party actuary to provide unbiased data and possible solutions, we are confident that a solution, or a range of solutions can be achieved in early 2017.

Second, please accept this correspondence as our organizations' support for the compromise language being amended into SB 235. Specifically:

- raising the taxable wage rate from $9,000 to $9,500 for a two year period commencing in 2018
- freezing benefits at 2017 levels for years 2018 and 2019
- addressing the "acceleration clause" language in HB 390

We believe that this approach shows shared sacrifice in the short term, but exhibits progress that has been sorely lacking for close to twenty years. There truly is value here.

I want to acknowledge the hard work of Task Force Chairmen Rep. Kirk Schuring and Sen. Bob Peterson, as well as numerous others in both chambers that invested so much time and

effort in this issue. Unemployment compensation insurance has long helped working Ohioans make ends meet when times get tough. All numbers aside, the impact for working Ohioans and their families is nearly impossible to calculate.

Accordingly, thank you for allowing this process to continue, and most importantly, for your commitment to get this right for Ohio's workers and businesses.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Szollosi