



GOVERNOR TED STRICKLAND
STATE OF OHIO



GOVERNOR EDWARD G. RENDELL
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

October 29, 2008

**Workforce Investment Boards of
Lawrence and Mercer Counties in Pennsylvania and
Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties in Ohio**

Dear Board Chairs and Members:

It is with great pleasure that we, the Governors of the State of Ohio and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, sign this joint letter designating Lawrence and Mercer Counties in Pennsylvania and Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties in Ohio as the nation's first Interstate Region, effective January 1, 2009. These five counties, along the border of Western Pennsylvania and Northeastern Ohio, share a common labor force, worker dislocations, current and emerging industries, and a shared vision to enhance economic and workforce development.

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 recognized the need for interstate communities, located within the same labor market or economic development area, to come together for regional planning and coordination of workforce development services. The designation of this Interstate Region is an innovative vision and plan to enhance the economic and workforce development of these five counties, which we, as Governors of these areas, support.

Governor Ted Strickland

Governor Edward G. Rendell