



THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

*Retail Merchants*

*The voice of retail since 1922*



**NFIB**

The Voice of Small Business.®

May 24, 2016

The Honorable Cliff Rosenberger  
Speaker of the Ohio House  
The Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High St., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The NFIB, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, Ohio Farm Bureau, and The Ohio Manufacturers' Association are writing today to express our collective support of the plan proposed by Governor Kasich's administration and House and Senate leaders to (1) pay off Ohio's unemployment insurance debt to the federal government, and (2) address the actuarial imbalance of the Ohio unemployment trust fund for the long term.

Collectively our organizations are committed to House Bill 394 as the most prudent approach to reform Ohio's broken unemployment compensation system. House Bill 394 is a priority issue for all of our members because it provides the best and most balanced and comprehensive solution for Ohio to reform its unemployment compensation system. Passage of the bill is critical to ensure Ohio's employers are protected against potential escalating FUTA penalties, while at the same time continuing to protect Ohio's employees.

We appreciate the transparent and collaborative process of the administration and General Assembly in crafting a short term solution to pay off the current debt to the federal government. By eliminating the debt by November 2016 Ohio's businesses will save more than an estimated \$400 million, revenue that can be reinvested into communities all across Ohio. The elimination of the debt will put an immediate end to the yearly escalation of FUTA penalties employers have been subject to over the past several years.

We urge you and your colleagues to enact these unemployment compensation system measures. We stand by ready to assist you in any way.

Thank you for your support of this meaningful economic improvement for Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roger R. Geiger".

Roger R. Geiger  
Vice President & Executive Director  
National Federation of Independent Business

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew E. Doehrel".

Andrew E. Doehrel  
President & CEO  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon Gough".

Gordon Gough  
President & CEO  
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John C. Fisher".

John C. "Jack" Fisher  
Executive Vice President  
Ohio Farm Bureau

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric L. Burkland".

Eric L. Burkland  
President  
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association

cc: Members, Ohio House of Representatives