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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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COMMISSIONERS DELIVER STIMULUS REQUESTS TO CAPITOL HILL

County officials, led by County Commissioner Tim Hagan, traveled to Washington Wednesday February 4, 2009, to deliver a list of local projects they say need funding by the Obama Administration and lawmakers in the forthcoming federal economic stimulus package to achieve the goals of stimulus- job creation -in Cuyahoga County.

“We realize every community has a huge wish list for the federal money, but this is not a wish list. It involves projects in which the County has already made significant investments and which could allow this county to leverage its resources, pursue new technology and jobs and strengthen its nationally recognized efforts to engage families and revitalize neighborhoods,” said County Administrator James McCafferty, who accompanied Commissioner Hagan to the nation’s capital. “We will continue meeting with our representatives in Congress, and with the Governor and legislators in Columbus to show them how we can use the stimulus funds locally to create jobs, support business and bring our continuing efforts to fruition.”

Leading the way on the County’s list of proposed projects is a request for \$44 million to develop a clean energy economy, one of the mainstay’s of President Obama’s stimulus package priorities. The request asks for \$29.3 million to support the Cuyahoga Wind Energy project, a plan to develop electricity generation from wind turbines offshore in Lake Erie; \$5 million to increase the energy efficiency of County buildings; \$5 million to promote and train a skilled workforce in jobs for “clean energy” technology and manufacturing, and \$5 million to help develop local clean energy –related businesses.

County officials gave details of the wind projects to President Obama and Governor Strickland when the President visited the area January 22nd.

President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan is currently being considered in the Senate, and the President has emphasized he wants the stimulus package passed as soon as possible to speed the nation's economic recovery.

The County contingent also pushed lawmakers to include funding for other local projects that they feel could fit the stimulus package criteria, including:

- About \$72 million to advance medical innovations and technology by working with the County's world-class healthcare systems and universities to foster development of new medical methods, technologies and products
- Creating livable and healthy Communities, as called for in the Obama package, by requesting \$17 million to support the proposed relocation of the Port of Cleveland, and about \$100 million to build or repair park, road and shoreline infrastructure.
- Developing and enhancing neighborhoods and social services using stimulus funds to assist with brownfield re-development, continuing the County's lead in foreclosure prevention and neighborhood stabilization, and increased funding for social programming for families, children and the poor.

The County's stimulus investment request has a mix of short term projects and long term investments as well as physical development coupled with social safety net programs. Should these investments be fulfilled, it is hoped that tens of thousands of jobs could be created in Cuyahoga County as well as hundreds of millions of new investment.