



Ohio House of Representatives  
State Representative Kenny Yuko

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## **Rep. Yuko Applauds Strickland's Optimistic Vision**

*Lawmaker Raves: This is How We 'Turn Around Ohio'*

**COLUMBUS** – State Representative Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) today applauded Governor Ted Strickland for the optimism and opportunity outlined in a “State of the State” address that unveiled new programs and new ideas to aid Ohio’s economy, education system and veterans.

“I am behind the Governor 100 percent and always have been,” Rep. Yuko said. “This new *Building Ohio Jobs* plan proves his commitment to ‘turning around Ohio.’ It’s exactly what we need.”

Rep. Yuko cited the Governor’s \$1.7 billion *Building Ohio Jobs* package as a responsible way to stimulate growth in the employment base and expand the breadth of Ohio’s economic opportunity. The bond package investments include:

- \$250 million for advanced and renewable energy
- \$150 million for intermodal infrastructure, including roads, rail and ports
- \$100 million for bioproducts that use agricultural byproducts to create plastic and polymer goods
- \$200 million for the biomedical industry
- \$200 million for the Ohio Main Streets Renewal Initiative
- \$400 million in the Clean Ohio fund to revitalize brownfields and protect farmland
- \$400 million in the Ohio Public Works Commission to help with road, bridge, water and sewer projects

Ultimately, the package, if approved by voters, may create up to 80,000 jobs.

“This package refocuses our priorities without exceeding our debt limit and digging a hole for our future,” Rep. Yuko said. “It targets some of our greatest economic needs.

“The most important aspect, however, is the potential to create thousands of good, well-paying jobs of the future. The creativity of this plan points to the innovation and creativity we hope to initiate through this program.”

Rep. Yuko also expressed strong support for the Governor's "Senior-to-Sophomore" program, which gives high-achieving high school students more options to attend college courses *for free* during their senior years in high school so that they can enter college with enough credit to have sophomore standing.

"The Seniors-to-Sophomores initiative is absolutely fantastic. This plan shows incredible conviction on the part of the Governor and it provides an unbeatable opportunity for our students," said Rep. Yuko.

Governor Strickland also focused on primary and secondary education, proposing to create a Cabinet-level Director of Education and to present ideas to address the state's school funding situation to the people of Ohio in 2009.

"A major portion of the Governor's plan to turn around Ohio involves education," said Rep. Yuko. "The Governor's proposals today show he is making our schools a top priority."