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Taylor, CSI Ohio Help Push EPA Permit Package Across the Finish Line

Permits Will Benefit Ohio's Aggregates Industry

Columbus – Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor today announced that CSI Ohio: The Common Sense Initiative and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Director Scott Nally worked together to complete the delivery of a long-awaited package of general permits that will streamline the ability of Ohio's important aggregates industry to operate. The permits have been subject to negotiations between the aggregates industry and the Ohio EPA for the past ten years.

"EPA and the aggregates companies worked closely for a long time to develop a strong permitting framework that will serve as an important tool for the industry, but in recent years, they have been unable to close the deal," Taylor said. "What we were able to do through CSI Ohio was to make it a priority to get these permits done, bring the parties together to identify the final remaining issues, and push the permits across the finish line."

Unlike normal permits that are tailored to individual companies and can take significant time and resources to develop, general permits provide specific requirements and environmental protections that any company can agree to abide by. General permits benefit businesses through consistency, certainty and reduced turnaround times. By simply notifying the Ohio EPA that it will operate under the general permit, companies can get to work immediately.

The aggregates industry – which produces limestone, sand and gravel, and other industrial minerals that are the basic elements in construction activity – began negotiating the general permits in 2001 as part of an Ohio EPA/Industry Permit Improvement Group. The permits apply to aggregate processing, mineral extraction, and emissions from portable equipment used in the aggregate industry. After the passage of Senate Bill 2, which codified CSI Ohio in state law, industry representatives met with CSI Ohio to seek a conclusion to the process and an ability to use the general permits that had been negotiated.

"Working with the EPA, we had been able to move the ball down the field in terms of crafting these permits, but we had been stuck at the two-yard line for a couple years," said Patrick Jacomet, Executive Director of the Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association. "CSI Ohio helped us get the ball across the goal line, and I don't think we'd be announcing these permits without the Lt. Governor's involvement."

"We will continue to work in partnership with Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor and her CSI Ohio team to identify issues we can address together that are important to all Ohioans," Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally said.

CSI Ohio was launched on January 10, 2011 by Gov. John R. Kasich to reform Ohio's regulatory policies to help make Ohio a jobs and business-friendly state. CSI Ohio will review Ohio's regulatory system to eliminate excessive and duplicative rules and regulations that stand in the way of job creation.

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