

**Office of Governor-Elect John Kasich  
and Lt. Governor-Elect Mary Taylor  
Columbus, Ohio**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2010

**Ohio Governor-elect John Kasich Names State Representative Jim Zehringer Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture**

COLUMBUS – Today Governor-elect John Kasich named Rep. Jim Zehringer to serve as Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

At a press conference today in Celina in Zehringer's home county of Mercer, Kasich lauded Zehringer's understanding of the importance of agriculture to Ohio's economy, as well as his experience as a successful small business owner.

In announcing Rep. Zehringer, Governor-elect Kasich said, "He's a farmer, he's a legislator, and most importantly, he has a connection to all of small town Ohio. His job is not just to work with farmers, but it is also to work with universities to figure out how to open up the research and development. We believe that one of the most important things we can do in Ohio is to stress the unique importance of our higher education operation. Higher education and their ability to convert research and development into real products that can lead to real jobs is something I am very excited about. It's a great day for farmers and it's a great day for Ohio's economy because we have someone who's committed to strengthening Ohio's strongest industry."

Said Zehringer, "Agriculture is a key to Ohio's economy and Gov.-elect Kasich understands its importance and will be a strong supporter of the industry. I look forward to working with John to leverage Ohio's research and development resources to find new products and markets and help farmers succeed and grow."

Today's nomination of Rep. Zehringer as Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture follows on the heels of Governor-elect Kasich's previous announcement that Beth Hansen will be chief of staff, Wayne Struble will serve as policy director, and Tim Keen will serve as Director of the Office of Budget and Management.

Representative Zehringer's biography can be read here:

[http://www.house.state.oh.us/index.php?option=com\\_displaymembers&task=detail&district=77](http://www.house.state.oh.us/index.php?option=com_displaymembers&task=detail&district=77)

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