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**Lee Fisher**, Lieutenant Governor, State of Ohio  
**Sean D. Logan**, Director, ODNR; Chairman  
**Edwin J. Hammett**, Executive Director

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 9, 2009

## **Ohio Lake Erie Commission to Hold Quarterly Meeting**

**TOLEDO, OH** - The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) will hold its quarterly meeting on December 16 at 10:15 a.m. in Meeting Room GA at the Ohio Department of Transportation headquarters located at 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, OH.

During the meeting, a special report will be presented on Ohio's involvement in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Ohio's proposed projects will be presented followed by discussion. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a federal source of \$475 million to support the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes.

Commission members are expected to approve the latest round of Lake Erie Protection Fund small grant applications for second quarter State Fiscal Year 2010 as well as Balanced Growth watershed projects that will begin work January 1, 2010. The Commission oversees Ohio's Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is a source of grant money for projects that benefit the Lake Erie watershed economically and environmentally. This fund is supported by Ohioans who purchase a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse or Toledo Harbor Lighthouse designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond. Since 1993, over \$9.0 million has been raised from sales of the Lake Erie license plates.

All meetings of the OLEC are open to the public and include reports from the member state agencies and advisory committees followed by a public comment period. Organizations and citizens are encouraged to attend this meeting and provide input on issues of concern.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission was established for the purpose of preserving Lake Erie's natural resources, protecting the quality of its waters and ecosystem, and promoting economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development, Agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

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