

## **Statement in Support of the Governor's "Investing in Ohio" Initiative**

February 1, 2021

The Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association applauds and is grateful for today's announcement by Governor Mike DeWine and administration officials of the "Investing in Ohio Initiative."

"The effort to deliver support to Ohio's employers and businesses most negatively impacted by COVID-19 will provide a bridge to recovery later this year and will help preserve jobs and critical economic infrastructure in our state," Joe Savarise, Executive Director of the Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association, said.

"Ohio's hotel and lodging industry has been negatively impacted to a truly historic level," Savarise said. "At the height of pandemic closures, 70 percent of our industry's workforce was displaced. Only a portion of those jobs have returned. 'Investing in Ohio' is an investment in these employees' future."

The Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association and its members will continue efforts to inform members of the Ohio General Assembly of the economic impacts on the industry and will work to support the Governor's efforts to "Invest in Ohio" during the state's budget process.

The Governor's proposal to support and sustain Ohio businesses will allow for grants up to \$30,000 to support lodging industry businesses that have seen a significant occupancy reduction during the pandemic.

It will also provide similar support for attractions, bars, and restaurants, which with hotel and lodging businesses are the backbone of Ohio's travel economy.

Additional investments in local community infrastructure, in workforce development, and in marketing Ohio as a place to visit, work and live will be an important part of an overall package to aid recovery.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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