



**Senator Keith Faber**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate District**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 9, 2011  
Contact: Joe Otte  
(614) 466-7584

## **SENATE PASSES REFORM BUDGET, REDUCING SPENDING AND ELIMINATING \$8 BILLION SHORTFALL WITHOUT RAISING TAXES**

*COLUMBUS*— The Ohio Senate yesterday passed a reform-focused budget that reduces spending and eliminates an \$8 billion dollar shortfall while allowing Ohioans to keep a more than \$800 million tax cut that went into place on January 1 of this year.

“We did something that many people didn’t believe was possible, and that’s balance a budget that had a huge shortfall without raising one penny in taxes. In fact, we implemented a tax cut that Ted Strickland postponed,” said Senator Keith Faber (R-Celina). “This economy has forced many Ohio families to cut back, and we weren’t going to add to their burden by increasing taxes. The cuts were tough, but I’m proud of the work we have done to bring some much-needed fiscal responsibility back to Columbus. At the same time, we focused the limited resources we have on important priorities such as funding for our schools and support of local governments.”

Rather than raise taxes on Ohioans, the budget passed by the Senate provides relief for hard-working taxpayers. Ohio homeowners will save a historic \$1.7 billion annually over the next two years in property taxes. The Senate budget also keeps the final phase-in of a 21 percent income tax reduction approved in 2005 for every Ohio taxpayer, a reduction estimated to put more than \$800 million back into the wallets of Ohio families at a time when they need it most. Furthermore, the burdensome estate tax has been repealed, eliminating the double-taxation of a person’s assets after their death.

The Senate budget provides additional support for public education by adding \$115 million to ensure every school district in Ohio will receive at least their current level of basic state aid (excluding federal stimulus funding) over the next two years. The additional funding includes \$30 million in incentives to reward high-quality schools that achieve a rating of either excellent or excellent with distinction.

“We have some of the best schools in the nation in west-central Ohio. Performance based incentives are long overdue and will help recognize our high performing schools,” Faber said.

The Senate also restored roughly \$100 million to the local government fund that the House set aside. Baseline local government support increases to \$750,000, meaning that counties that receive \$750,000 or less from the state’s local government fund will not see any cuts. This will especially benefit smaller rural counties that have a greater reliance on state support.

In addition to funding for our schools and local governments, the Senate focused its effort on ensuring Ohio's future prosperity by incentivizing development and higher education.

The Senate budget provides full support to JobsOhio, an innovative public-private effort proposed by Governor John Kasich to generate job growth and economic development. And to help fill the jobs of the future with highly qualified employees, the Senate keeps college tuition more affordable by capping tuition increases at Ohio colleges and universities at 3.5 percent. Additionally, the Senate created a new initiative called Live and Learn, which allows out-of-state students to pay in-state tuition rates in exchange for their commitment to live and work in Ohio for at least five years after they graduate from college.

Understanding the need to share in the sacrifices being made by many Ohioans, the Senate also adopted a provision for a five percent pay cut for state legislators.

"This action is necessary to demonstrate to Ohioans that we understand not only the limitations of this budget but also the challenges our families are facing every day," said Senator Faber.

Senator Faber successfully included several amendments to the bill that address specific needs in the 12<sup>th</sup> District:

**"Distressed" Watersheds; Lake Facilities Authority**

Authorizes the creation of Lake Facilities Authorities for the purpose of remediating watersheds declared by the Director of Natural Resources to be a "watershed in distress."

**Increased Dredging Funds**

Increases funds available to the Department of Natural Resources for dredging by \$1.5 million each year.

**Grand Lake St. Mary's Algae Mitigation**

Redirects funding to combat the toxic algae bloom outbreak on Grand Lake St. Mary's that is causing deterioration of the water quality and making the lake unusable for recreational activity.

**Chemicals in Bath Salts as Controlled Substances**

Fights the growing abuse of dangerous substances with the street name of "bath salts" that have been responsible for several local deaths in just the by adding six synthetic derivatives of cathinone that have been found in bath salts to the list of Schedule I controlled substances. This will make possession of these substances a criminal offense.

**Use Tax Amnesty Program**

Helps small businesses by creating a use tax amnesty program to run from the effective date of the legislation to May 1, 2013, and prohibits the tax commissioner from assessing any consumer for outstanding use tax liability incurred before January 1, 2010 for those who participate in the amnesty program. Additionally, makes various revisions to agricultural sales tax exemptions.