



Senator Mark Wagoner
2nd Ohio Senate District

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**OHIO SENATE CLOSES \$8 BILLION SHORTFALL WITHOUT RAISING
TAXES, EXPANDS SCHOOL CHOICE, MAKES LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL
NECESSARY FOR LEASING OF TURNPIKE**

COLUMBUS—The biennium budget measure passed today by the Ohio Senate successfully closed the \$8.5 billion shortfall that threatened to further burden the financial stability and future of Ohio’s families. Highlighted in the bill is a combined \$5.4 billion reduction in spending for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013, the elimination of Ohio’s job-killing “Estate Tax”, the reinstatement of the final phase-in of a 21-percent income tax cut originally passed in 2005, and an expansion of school choice throughout the state.

“This is about sound government and the need to give Ohio back to Ohioans,” said Senator Mark Wagoner (R-Toledo). “Ohio families have sacrificed too much over the past several years, and now it’s time for government to live within their means. I commend my colleagues for their hard work and commitment to passing a reform-minded bill.”

In addition to reform measures involving cost-savings and education, the Senate version of the budget also requires legislative approval for the leasing or selling of Ohio’s Turnpike. The possibility of leasing the turnpike has been a topic for conversation since Governor Kasich’s executive budget was first released nearly three months ago.