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## **Landslide approval of Issues 1 and 2 is a “green watermark” for jobs and the environment**

(Columbus, OH)—The Ohio Environmental Council, which teamed with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce to endorse Issues 1 and 2, predicts positive dividends for Ohio’s economic and natural environments as a result of yesterday’s voter approval of Issues 1 and 2.

“This is a green watermark for clean technologies and a clean environment,” said Jack Shaner, OEC Deputy Director. “This vote will return green dividends to Ohio for a healthier business environment and a cleaner natural environment.

“Ohio now has brighter prospects for increased investment in clean energy technologies developed right here in Ohio, thanks to voter renewal of the Third Frontier program. And the vote to move the Columbus casino from a prime downtown site to a shuttered factory lot may encourage more developers to recycle and put back to productive use more idle brownfield sites.”

Issue 1—which passed by a 62-38 margin—authorizes the issuances of \$700 million in state bonds for Ohio’s Third Frontier program, a public-private partnership that fosters innovation, invention and investment by Ohio-based high-tech industries and research institutions.

State officials report the investment of more than \$170 million and the growth and development of 120 advanced energy projects, to date, under Ohio’s Third Frontier program, including innovations involving energy efficiency, stored energy, wind and solar power, bio-fuels and fuel cells.

Issue 2—which passed by a 68-32 margin—moves the location of the casino planned for Columbus from an 18-acre site in the downtown Arena District to the idle site of a former auto parts factory on Columbus’ economically-struggling west side. The issue’s approval assures the rapid clean up and reuse of the sprawling, 123-acre brownfield.

Business and community leaders believe that redeveloping the vacant factory site sooner rather than later will help spur other commercial development there, too. Moving the casino also will help continue the planned development of the downtown

Arena District, which includes family-friendly attractions such as a new minor-league baseball stadium.

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“We thank Ohio voters for approving these investments. Our thanks as well to former Governor Bob Taft for first establishing the Third Frontier program and to Governor Ted Strickland for pushing for its early renewal,” concluded Shaner.

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The mission of the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC is Ohio’s leading advocate for fresh air, clean water, and sustainable land use. The OEC has a 40-year history of innovation, pragmatism, and success. Using legislative initiatives, legal action, scientific principles, and statewide partnerships, the OEC secures a healthier environment for Ohio’s families and communities. For more information, visit [www.theOEC.org](http://www.theOEC.org).