

# Fuel cell research a boost to Ohio

**I**n the 126th General Assembly, we have focused on transforming and revitalizing Ohio's economy to create new and better jobs here in Ohio. Through hard work and fiscal responsibility, we passed the most fiscally conservative budget in more than 40 years and reformed Ohio's outdated tax code, including 21 percent across-the-board income tax cut - the largest income tax cut in Ohio's history.

As we continue our work, my colleagues and I in the House will continue to focus on other important initiatives that benefit Ohio's economy. An integral part of achieving this goal will be to develop new technologies and explore alternative energy options. The industrial and manufacturing days of the past put Ohio in the forefront of business and industry in the United State. However, since the shift to a global, knowledge-based economy, it is again becoming important for Ohio to succeed in the new business and manufacturing fields of alternative energy, namely fuel cells. Moreover, supporting these efforts will allow all Ohioans to benefit from potential cost savings, increased energy efficiency and reduced dependency on foreign oil.

Amid the current environment of fuel shortages and higher petroleum and natural gas prices, it is important



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for all Ohioans that we in the House explore all reasonable energy alternatives. State lawmakers see the investment in and use of alternative energy sources as a way to develop innovative industries that will spur economic growth, reduce dependency on foreign oil, and utilize more environmentally-friendly fuels.

However, in order to inject more funding into the development of alternative energy, legislators have supported Ohio's Third Frontier Initiative that has consistently provided the necessary tools to increase high-tech, high-paying jobs and make Ohio a leader in new research and knowledge-based jobs that will strengthen the state's economy. Within Ohio's Third Frontier program, \$103 million has been allocated for a Fuel Cell Initiative. This initiative continues to build upon the fuel cell research already being conducted across the state at research universities and federal laboratories.

Specifically, the initiative has focused on demonstration projects and investing in the expansion of the fuel cell industry in Ohio to attract companies and jobs.

Through our efforts to support Ohio's Fuel Cell Initiative, we are helping our state to become a national leader in the manufacturing of fuel cells. Though some may not connect the expanding fuel cell industry with Ohio's economy, state leaders, scientists and researchers see the two as essential partners in our state's future success. Through this initiative and the implementation of a variety of successful economic development programs, such as historic tax reforms, Ohio has demonstrated that it is a supportive state for attracting fuel-cell-related technology development and manufacturing.

Because of the grant money made available through the Third Frontier Fuel Initiative, Ohio has seen the creation and expansion of several companies. Right here in Montgomery County, the Edison Materials Technology Center is developing a project after being awarded an Ohio grant that will improve engine efficiency in trucks. Sales from this project are expected to be in excess of \$10 million and 65 to 200 jobs could be created in the Dayton area alone.

Moreover, more than 650 new jobs could be created across the state from the expansion and investment made through the Fuel Cell Initiative.

The projects being developed by the Edison Materials Technology Center and others like them across the state are only the beginning of future fuel cell developments in Ohio. Our state's attention to the emerging fuel cell industry will result in additional future developments and benefits for all Ohioans.

Ohio has substantial business and research assets related to fuel cell technologies and a strong interest in making the most of technology. Through the Ohio Fuel Cell Initiative and other future measures, we will continue to drive growth and create jobs in this emerging and innovative industry. These efforts will help us not only to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy and use cleaner burning fuels but will help us to achieve our goal of transforming and revitalizing Ohio's economy.

If you would like to contact me about Ohio's fuel cell initiatives or any other state-related matter, I am available by calling 1-614-644-6008, by e-mailing [district37@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district37@ohr.state.oh.us) or you may write to me, Speaker Jon Husted, at 77 S. High St., 14th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215.