



November 18, 2000

The Honorable Bob Taft
Governor of Ohio
Members of the
Ohio General Assembly

Dear Governor, Senators and Representatives,

It is my responsibility (Ohio Revised Code 5703.42) and privilege to provide you with the *2000 Annual Report of the Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT)*.

This report details ODT activities in Fiscal Year 2000 (July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000). In it you will find a description of and data pertaining to each of the twenty taxes and three local government funds administered by the department. The report also contains an overview of the workings of ODT. Related to that and new this year are sections highlighting our important initiatives and legislative involvement. Please also note, this is the last report to include information on the Energy Credit Program. That program, on July 1, 2000, was transferred to the Department of Development as directed by law (Am. Sub. S.B. 3, 123rd General Assembly).

This report summarizes the period that was also my first full year as Ohio's Tax Commissioner. It is an honor to lead a department that is committed to serving the Governor, General Assembly and people of Ohio. We have made significant progress, including passage of the Taxpayer Services Bill (House Bill 612), toward modernizing and simplifying the tax system in Ohio. That will remain a major focus.

I invite you to open and enjoy this window to the world of tax in Ohio. I think you will find that the pages following provide many interesting and enlightening views.

My hope is that this report serves your needs. My promise is that this department will, in all ways, continue to work to that end.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Zaino
Tax Commissioner



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