



October 31, 2003

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

Dear Governor, Senators and Representatives,

It is my responsibility under Ohio Revised Code 5703.42 as well as my privilege to provide you with the **2003 Annual Report of the Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT)**.

The report details ODT activities in Fiscal Year 2003 (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003). In it you will find a description of and statistical data pertaining to each of the 21 taxes and three local government funds administered by the department. This report also includes a tax-specific update from House Bill 95 of the 125th General Assembly, detailing the most significant changes to Ohio's tax system in 22 years. The annual report highlights several major accomplishments during the year that improved service to taxpayers. It also contains an extensive overview of ODT's divisions and how their functions support the overall mission of the department.

I invite you to read through the annual report and gain a greater understanding of the tax system in Ohio and how it meets the needs of both state residents and government. I believe that you will find the report to be both an interesting and enlightening publication.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Zaino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas M. Zaino
Tax Commissioner