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Gov. Strickland highlights Hamilton County small-business incubator

Feb. 7, 2008 -- One day after his State of the State speech in which he proposed a stimulus package to create 80,000 jobs, Gov. Ted Strickland highlighted the Hamilton County Development Company's role in fostering the growth of business in Ohio.

Gov. Strickland on Thursday visited the Hamilton County Business Center, a small-business incubator where nearly 50 firms are using the affordable space and support services available there to build entrepreneurial ventures.

The governor met with three incubator businesses:

- Jacobs Automation, which designs machines for the packaging industry that reduce changeover time and decrease costs. Jacobs Automation joined the incubator in June 2007.
- Emersion Design, an architecture, engineering, planning and interior design firm. Emersion joined the incubator in August 2007 and has since grown from four partners to a team of 13.
- Private Health News, a firm that provides print and electronic marketing materials and information to the health care industry. In the last 12 months, PHN revenues have grown by nearly 65 percent.

"Our future will be brighter if we invest in the things that will create jobs," Strickland said during the visit. "The business development company here is critical to that."

"It's gratifying that the governor recognizes the importance of small business in the future economic prosperity of the state," said David Main, president of the Hamilton County Development Co.

Hamilton County Development Co. is a non-profit corporation established to promote economic development in the region. It offers three main programs: the Hamilton County Business Center, an award-winning business incubator; the Hamilton County Economic Development Office, which provides economic development services; and the Horizon Certified Development Co., which has assisted more than 1,000 companies with Small Business Administration loans.

