

Midwest and Great Lakes Economic Development Summit
July 17–18, 2008 Columbus, Ohio

Welcome to a historic event.

You and your colleagues from eight adjoining states are meeting for the first time at a summit that can change the future of your state and the entire region. Never before has the economic development leadership of these eight states gotten together to confront the common problems they face, share what they've learned from dealing with them, and search for common solutions. While the region's problems are longstanding, and a meeting like this is long overdue, this difficult moment may be a particularly good one for taking stock.

Our goals over the next two days:

- To have a frank, off-the record discussion of what you're doing, what's working, what's not; and whether it adds up to a plausible strategy;
- To see what might be gained from better regional policy coordination in economic development;
- To see what changes in national policy are desired from the next administration;
- To see what you're prepared to act on together, and develop a plan for doing so.

The Center for State Innovation is proud to bring together such a knowledgeable and experienced group. We thank Governor Ted Strickland for his generosity in hosting this event in his state, and to the other Governors for letting such essential staff have time for this discussion.

My thanks to all of you for committing your energy, expertise, and most valuable time to this summit.



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